

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Congress in Furor Over 'Scare' Memo

Scare Campaign Over AIDS Exposed in Capital, Press

by Jay Newquist

Congress and the national news media responded last week to a secret plan for an AIDS scare campaign to benefit Republicans in the 1988 elections. The plan first was exposed Oct. 8 in the Bay Area Reporter. Last week, the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee circulated copies of the article, and the leaked documents on which it was based, to 53 members of Congress on an "AIDS hit list." Meanwhile, The New York Times, The Washington Post and the Associated Press published stories on the scare campaign. The San Francisco daily press was silent on the controversy.

The disclosure raised a furor in Congress this week and prompted an extraordinary one-hour, ten-minute debate on the floor of the House on Tuesday. During the controversy, it was confirmed that U.S. Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Orange County), State Sen. John Doolittle (R-Folsom) and seven others met Sept. 8 in Sacramento to plan a campaign based on AIDS issues.

It was revealed that the author of the scare campaign was San Francisco political consultant Charles Rund. Rund was a deputy campaign manager for President Reagan in 1984.

Rund publicly denied authoring the memo which was at the heart of the expose, and he denied suggesting an AIDS scare campaign. Bay Area Reporter stood behind its story, accused Rund of lying, and stood behind the authenticity of the leaked materials which were the basis of its report.

The memos were secured from a San Francisco consulting firm under contract to the Republican Party. They were circulated recently in Washington by an angered Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

The hit list included Rep. Norman Mineta (D-San Jose) and State Senator John Garimendi (D-Stockton) and many others whom the Republicans consider "soft" on AIDS issues.

THE STRATEGY

The memo stated, "The AIDS issue could easily be a paramount one in 1988. It is important that it is used effectively and wisely... the Republican Party must never seem to be inciting a reaction, only responding to it... Not



Rep. William Dannemeyer

only could the AIDS issue help us to gain ground in '88 but it might help us hang on where some of our people are in trouble."

"We must avoid being labelled as extremists, the recent fate of the Briggs and LaRouche initiatives," the memo advised.

"It is important that it is used effectively and wisely. It is an explosive issue that could easily backfire if it is done in a heavy or blatant way."

The memos were obtained by an informant at Charlton Research Co., 110 Sutter Street, a consulting firm long associated with the Republican party and conservative dogma.

A gay man, who provided the documents, told the B.A.R. he

(Continued on page 2)



(Photo: Rink)

THE HOMELESS

Homes for the Ill: Transition to Nowhere

by Tim Taylor

A growing number of people with AIDS or ARC are homeless—barely surviving in the city's parks and streets, or in poorly maintained hotels and shelters for the transient. But the city has not yet developed a comprehensive and humane housing program to cope with the problem.

City estimates of the size of the homeless AIDS/ARC population range from 50 to 400 people. Community activists say the number may be as high as 600. While the census may be in dispute all agree that existing resources cannot cope with today's crisis, and that the number of homeless will continue to grow.

(Continued on page 14)

Today

BACKS DOWN: Sen. Pete Wilson has reneged on a promise made a year ago to support the federal gay rights bill. Page 3.

SPEAKS UP: The AIDS ward staff at S.F. General rejects a call for mandatory testing as 91 workers sign a statement. Page 4.

CHIPS IN: Audrey isn't rich, but she's generous of both her money and time to gay causes. A look at the lifestyle of a Sacramento philanthropist on page 20.

Shanti Resident Disappears — Dies Five Days Later

Discovered in Ditch Near Market St.

by Will Snyder

A gay man with AIDS-dementia wandered away from a Shanti Project home on Tuesday, Nov. 3 and died five days later after being found in a ditch near Market Street. Louis Berry, 33, was found alone and nearly unconscious last Sunday in a lot near Market and Haight Streets. He was rushed to Mission Emergency Hospital where he died 40 minutes later.

An autopsy was performed on Berry on Monday, but August Weber of city coroner Boyd Stephens' office said it may take as long as six weeks to determine the cause of death. "It's still under investigation," said Weber, "but all indications point to homicide not being a factor."

Police reports indicate that a missing persons report was filed on Nov. 3 by Stephen Martin, a friend of Berry. Martin told Bay Area Reporter that he and Bea Bloom, Berry's Shanti residence manager, began making phone calls, trying to locate Berry.

(Continued on page 15)

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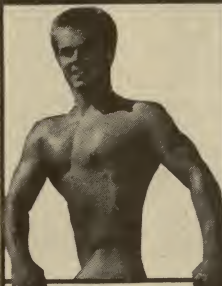
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Scare

(Continued from page 1)

was angry at the exploitation of the AIDS crisis. He feared reprisals if his identity was revealed.

At present the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee has notified each politician of his or her place on the hit list. The lawmakers were also informed that the plan of attack was to drive an AIDS-related wedge between the politicians and their constituencies by inciting fear.

"We're shocked, but we're not particularly surprised," said a Democratic spokesman. "This is the kind of thing we've come to expect from the opposition."

"These tactics do not reflect the fact that most people care about people with AIDS, while they also feel themselves at risk."

State Senator John Garimendi (D-Stockton), a prime target of the scare strategy, was miffed at the news, but not totally unaware he was a target.

FIGHT WITH FACTS

His press aide, Jay Ziegler, singled out the reactionary State Sen. John Doolittle as an agent of malice. "It's a vehicle to push Doolittle's political career," he said.

Ziegler said Sen. Garimendi didn't dismiss the inherent danger in the purloined memos. "They're incredible—mind-boggling. They're trying to use AIDS to drive people apart. It's a shade worse than McCarthy-like exploitation for gain."

The only way to respond, Ziegler said, was to fight back with the facts about AIDS.

U.S. Rep. Norman Mineta of San Jose was not amused by his place on the hit list. But he vowed he would not alter his stance in the AIDS crisis no matter what artillery was launched against him.

"AIDS is a health issue. I'll do whatever is necessary to see to it that there is adequate AIDS funding," he said. "This is what I have been trying to do and I won't cower to any bunch of self-anointed politicians."

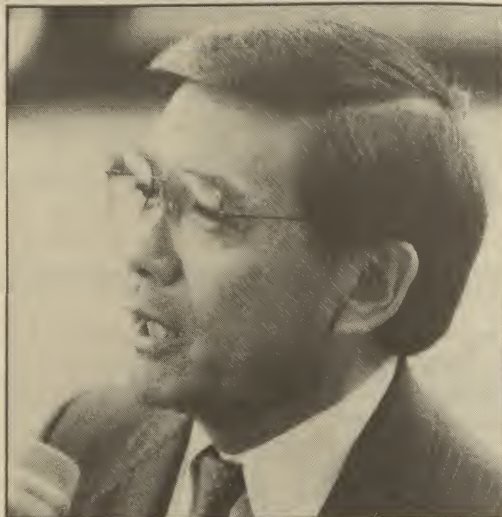
Rep. Dannemeyer—who was described in the memo as "terrifying, foaming at the mouth any time anyone made an even slightly sympathetic reference to people with AIDS"—demanded a retraction from the B.A.R.

Dannemeyer telephoned the B.A.R. on the afternoon of Friday, Nov. 6, the day the New York Times report was published. Shouting on the telephone, he demanded a retraction. When told to submit his demand in writing, Dannemeyer said, "You'll be hearing from me."

As of Tuesday, Nov. 10, as this issue of Bay Area Reporter went to press, the newspaper had not received a formal retraction demand from Dannemeyer. Dannemeyer is the arch-conservative from Orange County who has publicly called for quarantine of people with AIDS. This week, on Cable News Network, Dannemeyer called for reducing federal spending to fight AIDS.

Chuck Rund, head of Charlton Research Co., has also disputed the authenticity of the memo detailing the AIDS scare campaign. He said that the list of targeted politicians was authentic, but he maintained the text of the memos was planted in his office by a disgruntled former aide.

Brian Jones, news editor of B.A.R. and the editor who handled the original story, said, "We stand behind our story. We



San Jose Congressman Norman Mineta was targeted. Last week he shot back. (Photo: R. Pruzan)

believe the memo is authentic and we question Mr. Rund's motives in denying the authenticity of the memo."

"If Mr. Rund believes our report was false, I invite him to sue me for libel," Jones said. "I welcome the opportunity to establish the facts of this attempted scare campaign in a court or anywhere else. Let Mr. Rund put up or shut up."

Dannemeyer, in his effort to refute the memo, actually confirmed part of it. Dannemeyer confirmed that a meeting of Republican office-holders and consultants, including himself, had taken place in Sacramento to discuss political strategy regarding AIDS. That meeting is reported in the text of the memo.

"I was in Sacramento on Sept. 8 talking about this issue with the other eight people in the room, with Sen. Doolittle of the State of California," Dannemeyer said.

Dannemeyer's statement came after he took the floor of the House Tuesday (Nov. 10) on a point of personal privilege to refute the story. In fact, he confirmed two key elements of the story: That a meeting had taken place, and that those attending the meeting were discussing how to advance the right-wing agenda via the AIDS health crisis.

And indirectly, Dannemeyer lent credence to the leaked memo which laid the basis of the original exposé. The Sept. 8 meeting is reported in the leaked memo, which was published in the Oct. 8 Bay Area Reporter. Thus Dannemeyer inadvertently lent support to the authenticity of the memo, even while attempting to discredit it.

"To my Democratic friends in the House, there is a certain measure of truth in what the memo said with respect to a Republican plan to attack a select group of congressional incumbents in 1988 as being soft on AIDS," Dannemeyer said.

(All quotations in this report from the congressional debate are verbatim statements from the Congressional Record.)

A spokesman for Art Agnos, the leading AIDS expert in the legislature, said the Assemblyman was upset by such a tawdry AIDS backlash. "It's not far off the mark for this set of Republican strategists," said Larry Bush.

A state ballot initiative proposed by Dannemeyer and State Sen. John Doolittle (R-Folsom) would require mandatory reporting to health officials, as well as access to records by insurance companies, of anyone testing HIV-antibody positive.

"AIDS is a politically loaded, highly infectious disease," Bush said. "People have seen films about quarantine and they think the idea has appeal. It's like the '50s when people were afraid of getting polio from a swimming pool."

"We need an awareness of the facts and we must strengthen the coalition with health organizations so the public understands the crisis," Bush said.

At the office of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-S.F.), gay aide Steve Morin said the confidential memos caught them by surprise. "We can tell it has the look of a nasty attempt to use the very worst prejudice to help elect candidates," Morin said.

"There's a real feeling of anti-AIDS, anti-gay sentiment in Washington," Morin said. "We must be vigilant, and I mean it."

Pelosi was among the Members of Congress who were both amused and annoyed by Dannemeyer's outbursts on AIDS this week.

"The more that Mr. Dannemeyer speaks on AIDS issues, the more ridiculous his arguments become to other members" of Congress, Pelosi said.

Growing disgust with Dannemeyer may have been evidenced in a vote taken last Tuesday (Nov. 10). Dannemeyer proposed an amendment to a health bill in an effort to force AIDS antibody testing on pregnant migrant workers. But Democrats were successful in all but gutting the amendment. The House voted to change Dannemeyer's amendment so that testing would be offered—rather than required.

It was a sharply different response by the House to Dannemeyer than three weeks earlier. On Oct. 22, the House supported by a 368-47 vote a Dannemeyer amendment to ban safe-sex materials which "promote, encourage or condone" gay sexual behavior.

The source who originally leaked the private documents expressed satisfaction that he had accomplished what he set out to do—expose the AIDS scare in order to cripple it before it left the cradle.

Blanket and Clothing Drive

Winter clothing, shoes, blankets and sleeping bags are needed for the gay homeless. Donations can be dropped off at the Gay Rescue Mission, 1080 Folsom, any morning.

Wilson Reneges On Promise to Support Gay Bill

by Brian Jones

U.S. Sen. Pete Wilson has reneged on a promise made a year ago to join as a sponsor of the federal gay rights bill. The first-term Republican also contradicted statements supporting a constitutional right to privacy by voting for Judge Robert Bork. Bork was rejected largely because he argued that no right to privacy exists.

In October 1986, at a meeting of the nonpartisan gay political action group, The Alliance, Wilson was asked if he would sign on as a sponsor of the federal gay rights bill.

"I am prepared to make that statement of support," Wilson said, surprising the audience of 100. Wilson is now seeking a second six-year term in the forthcoming 1988 election.

Following his October 1986 promise, which was recorded by KQED and reported by Bay Area Reporter, gay activists followed up and sought to ensure that Wilson would keep his word. A year later, they have given up.

"It's the biggest cop-out I have ever heard," said James Hormel, a San Francisco board member of the Human Rights Campaign Fund.

Wilson has not directly stated that he has changed his mind. Rather, he has dodged questions about his 1986 promise and has, in the year since, refused to put his name on the bill.

'STILL STUDYING'

Late in 1986, Chuck Forrester, the former gay liaison to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, wrote a letter to Wilson's office to pursue the gay-rights promise. Forrester's letter was never answered—suggesting that within weeks of making the promise, Wilson had decided to renege on his pledge but avoid directly saying so.

Wilson's obfuscation remained unchallenged until the March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights last month. During the lobbying days associated with the march, Wilson repeatedly was pressed to make his position clear.

"The Thursday before the march (Oct. 8) we were meeting in Wilson's office with one of his aides, and I asked, 'when does Sen. Wilson intend to fulfill his agreement to co-sponsor the gay-rights legislation in the Senate?'" Hormel said.

"The aide said, 'We prepared some material for him and he will address the issue tomorrow,'" Hormel said.

But the next day, in a meeting packed with 150 gay and lesbian activists, Wilson again dodged the issue. He told the audience he hadn't had time to study the bill—despite having pledged to support it a year before.

PRIVACY

Wilson's strategy seemed to be a ploy to play both ends against the middle: to woo gay voters for the 1988 senatorial election while doing nothing to anger his conservative Republican constituency. Wilson, before being elected in a narrow victory over Jerry Brown in 1982, was mayor of San Diego.

Another example of Wilson's contradictory signals was his 1986 defense of a right to privacy

for gay people and his 1987 support of Judge Robert Bork, who argued that no right to privacy exists.

In his appearance at The Alliance in 1986, Wilson sharply criticized the Supreme Court's ruling in *Bowers v. Hardwick*.

Wilson responded to that ruling by saying, "I think there is a right to privacy in consensual sex acts, provided they take place between adults in the privacy of their own homes. I had a presumption that the Constitution already protected that."

However, a year later, Wilson announced he would vote for Judge Robert Bork.



Carping Over the Vote

Mayoral candidate Vera Carp — she IS one of the boys — tries valiantly to reign herself in as she misses a spot in the Dec. 8 runoff for mayor. Soothing Ms. Carp is comedian Robin Williams (c). Ms. Carp's backers urged the write-in candidate to fight on, but she declined, saying, "I don't wish to divide the city I love." Said Carp: "San Francisco is worth dressing up for."

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Corrections

The story regarding the mayoral election on page 1 of the Nov. 5 Bay Area Reporter included an incorrect percentage of the vote for Sup. John Molinari, due to a typographical error. The correct percentage of the vote for Molinari was 24.9 percent. Bay Area Reporter regrets the error.

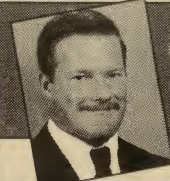
★ ★ ★

The story regarding an AIDS memorial service in Redwood City on page 21 of the Nov. 5 issue included a typographical error which altered the meaning of a statement. San Mateo County Supervisors approved an ordinance "protecting" residency and job rights of people with AIDS, not "protesting" such rights, as reported. ●



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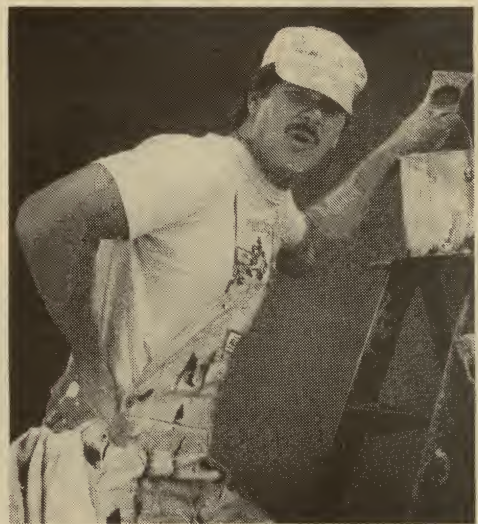


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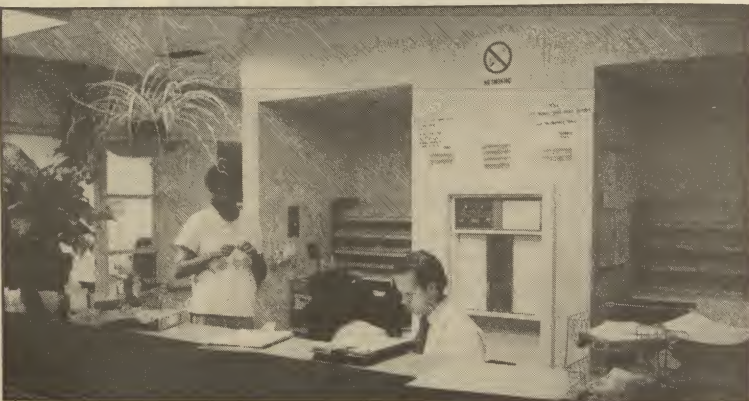
1115 Geary Boulevard (between Franklin & Van Ness)

91 Health Workers Reject Calls for Mandatory Tests

S.F. General Staffers Sign Letter to Feinstein

by Ray O'Loughlin

Recent calls for some form of mandatory HIV testing have prompted a group of 91 staff members at San Francisco General Hospital to publicly reject all forced testing proposals. In a letter dated Oct. 30, the medical workers most acquainted with AIDS listed five objections to forced testing. They addressed their letter to hospital director Philip E. Sowa and distributed copies to a number of physicians, to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, and the city's Health Commission.



The AIDS ward at S.F. General

(Photo: Rink)

"As caregivers working with people with AIDS, we have developed knowledge and expertise about issues involved with AIDS treatment," stated the letter.

Referring to recent public recommendations by SFGH staff for HIV testing of certain patients, the letter said, "We have severe misgivings about any form of mandatory HIV testing."

Alison Moed, head nurse for Ward 5A and whose signature appears first on the list of 91 signatures, said, "We feel very strongly about the issue as health care workers and we felt we needed to speak out."

The letter cited as problems:

- The lack of confidentiality guarantees;
- The threat of diminished care to persons testing HIV positive;
- The need for funds to be spent on education; and
- The false sense of security that negative test results would cause.

NO GUARANTEE

Despite statutes on the books promising confidentiality for HIV test results, the medical workers said that no real guarantee exists.

"Currently, few if any safeguards exist to protect the confidentiality of an individual in the hospital setting who has been tested for HIV. Merely having been tested can kindle prejudice and assumptions about lifestyle in a fearful population which is vastly uninformed about HIV transmission and infection. A positive test result could have dire consequences, affecting a person's emotional well-being, employment, housing, insurance and relationships with others."

Routine testing of hospital patients, they warned, could lead to a two-tiered health services system with those who test positive for HIV getting diminished health care. "We fear that the quality of care of an HIV positive individual will be diminished or compromised as a consequence of conservative measures for elective procedures, and withholding

surgical procedures which could enhance quality of life or be life-sustaining."

The letter proposed a dual responsibility between doctor and patient in which "patients would be aware of the measures which health care providers must take to prevent (sic) themselves from risk, even though these measures might entail a modicum of risk for the patient during a procedure."

FALSE SECURITY

They urged that city funds would be better spent on health education instead of testing. "The city's resources are already being taxed both by the epidemic and by growing costs of health care in general. Monies could be put to better use in the area of preventative education. Research has shown that educational interventions do change high risk behaviors."

Reliance on routine HIV testing could produce an unwarranted confidence in health care workers. "Because a patient carrying the virus could test negative during the period between time of exposure to the virus and development of the antibodies, a false sense of security for health care providers is engendered by a negative antibody test result."

"The only safe measure is to use universal blood and body fluid precautions on ALL patients," said the letter.

Finally, the letter signers advocated that testing should be done only if accompanied by "in-depth pre- and post-test counseling and education" for those who test positive or negative.

"At present, there are not sufficient numbers of appropriate personnel to do this work," said the health workers. Hiring additional staff would further strain city finances, they said.

The letter concluded that "mandatory HIV testing is not a satisfactory or effective answer to our own concerns about risk."

Moed said she personally was aware of risks. "There is a risk for health care workers in working with people with AIDS. But there are always risks for health care

providers. It didn't start with AIDS," she said.

"People will think testing is a protection and an answer," she said. "I don't believe it is. It provides limited knowledge at great cost."

NOT EFFECTIVE

One SFGH staff member has been tested positive for HIV and that is believed due to an accidental needle-stick. According to guidelines put out by the federal Centers for Disease Control, on-the-job duties with normal precautions do not pose a threat to health workers.

So far, SFGH administration has opposed routine and mandatory HIV testing. When staff surgeon Dr. Lorraine Day recently proposed testing for surgery patients, the hospital refused to institute such a policy.

"Testing of patients for HIV infection at SFGH is, and will be, voluntary," said Dr. Michael Federle at the time, though he encouraged it for those at high risk for AIDS. "Routine testing for HIV infection is not effective in implementing infection control precautions," he said. He cited the possible inaccuracy of the test as a problem and the use of precautions as sufficient to meet the concern.

Federle said that care must be made available to all patients "regardless of HIV status."

Mayor Dianne Feinstein's press secretary, Tom Eastham, said that the mayor had received a copy of the letter and that her staff was looking into the matter. He said Feinstein would discuss the letter with her AIDS Task Force soon.

On Oct. 16, Feinstein proposed to the Health Commission that the city institute mandatory HIV testing of all jail inmates and encourage testing of certain surgery patients in city hospitals. Although the mayor's letter calls for provision of care to all, if a patient refuses to be tested, a physician may, according to the mayor, use "modified surgical procedures."

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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Agnos Affair: J'Accuse: Part III

TO: John Van De Kamp, Attorney General, State of California
Arlo Smith, San Francisco District Attorney
Louise Renne, San Francisco City Attorney
and Joe Russoniello, U.S. Attorney

I accuse the above named officials of dereliction of duty in failing to investigate known and undisputed facts regarding the financial affairs of Assemblyman Arthur C. Agnos. Their failure to act constitutes a crime upon the citizenry of San Francisco. I, therefore make the following official complaint to each one of them:

THE FACTS

- HIDDEN TSAKOPOLOUS RELATIONSHIP:** On July 14, 1987, after intense newspaper scrutiny, Agnos revealed for the first time that he had acquired a 10 percent partnership interest in a property controlled by Angelo Tsakopolous. The property is known as Calvine 1100 Acre II in Sacramento.
- CONCEALMENT OF CALVINE II:** Agnos acquired his interest in Calvine II on Aug. 5, 1986. He, thereafter, failed to disclose the interest in his 1986 FPPC returns and then disclosed it, only after press scrutiny in an amended return in July 1987.
- AGNOS' TRANSFER TO ROSS:** On Dec. 22, 1986, Agnos transferred one-half interest in the Calvine Property to his campaign manager, Richie Ross who also holds partnership interests with Tsakopolous.
- AGNOS' CLAIM OF FREE CAMPAIGN SERVICES BY ROSS:** On June 8, 1987 Agnos told the San Francisco Examiner that Richie Ross was providing "free" campaign services. Agnos has never explained why Calvine 1100 Acre II was omitted from his 1986 FPPC returns and what the actual value of the partnership was to Ross. The

value of Ross' services are conservatively estimated at more than \$60,000. In addition, Tsakopolous has twice been named in legal actions as the source of laundered funds.

THE LAW

- ELECTION CONTRIBUTION LIMIT:** San Francisco campaign law prohibits any individual from contributing more than \$500 per person in the first mayoral election and more than \$250 in a run off.
- PAYMENT TO CAMPAIGN MANAGER:** The California Political Reform Act requires reporting actual income received by candidates and actual salaries paid by election campaigns. Payments to campaign managers may not be unreported or undervalued.
- PAYMENT OF ILLEGAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO CITY'S GENERAL FUND:** The treasurer of a campaign that has received illegal contributions must pay the illegal amount to the city's general fund.
- WILLFUL FPPC FILING VIOLATIONS ARE CRIMINAL:** Pursuant to Government Code 9100, any person who wilfully violates any provision of the Political Reform Act is guilty of a misdemeanor and may receive a fine of up to \$10,000 or three times the amount the person failed to report properly.

Based upon the above facts and law, I hereby demand that each and every one of the above named law enforcement officials immediately open an investigation into the financial affairs of Arthur C. Agnos

Signed, Bob Ross
Publisher

OPINION

Moral Mortality

by Les Wright

The early American settlers imported their petty rivalries, resulting in the creation of numerous colonies. In the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Puritans insisted on the freedom to practice their religion and to banish or execute anyone who disagreed.

Separation of church and state, an ideal of 18th Century Enlightenment philosophy, was incorporated into the American Constitution as a safeguard against religious tyranny—a tribute to the prudence of our Founding Fathers. It is a sad commentary on affairs in Washington, however, that the ever-present religious moralists must still be countered through constitutional legislation.

The Reagan regime has had incredible success in popularizing its own particular cult of fundamentalist intolerance and in initiating legislation to impose its moral beliefs. Reagan addresses himself to a "general public," a fictional audience that voted him into power, an all-inclusive category of those who either are or righteously seek to become white, upper-middle-class, family-oriented, and heterosexually untainted by AIDS.

Those who do not fit into that category (by far the majority of Americans) are coerced into conformity with this McPublic identity.

The House of Representatives' recent move to prevent the use of federal money to "promote homosexuality" demonstrates the extent of the Reagan regime's success in bending congressional will to this peculiar strain of moral fundamentalism. Congress itself now obediently legislates Reagan's scurrilous McLogic into reality.

A comic book published by the Gay Men's Health Crisis of New York has, several years after its release, come to the attention of the Congress. This educational tool was created by real people in response to a real crisis in the face of a crushingly real and deliberate indifference by government.

This educational tool commits the unforgivable sin of transgressing the peculiar morality of the Reagan regime. It contains real information, and communicates it at the heretical expense of breaching homophobic taboo.

The real crisis of AIDS was recognized in 1981. Ever since then the government has attempted by every means at hand to deny this reality. As has been painfully obvious to anyone paying attention, the AIDS crisis has expanded and escalated.

But Reagan and his acquiescent Congress are scrambling to redefine the situation into an AIDS McCrisis. Thus sexually explicit information designed to combat a sexually transmitted disease is deemed propaganda "promoting" homosexuality. How sad, reprehensible and ter-

rifying!

The sad part is that McCongress cannot or will not acknowledge the homophobic fantasy that prompted its morally motivated legislation.

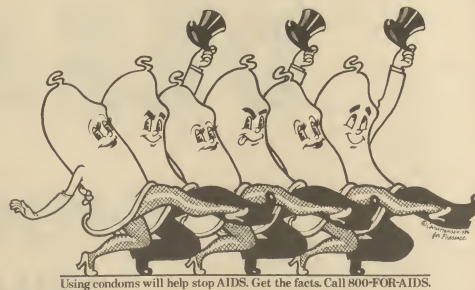
The reprehensible part is that Reagan's McReality is impervious to political scrutiny. The whole point of McReality is to sidestep every direct encounter with reality and insist on its own self-righteousness by claiming the universality of its principles. It is impervious to the inherent evil of its own system of denial.

The terrifying part is that our government blithely condemns hundreds of thousands of people to real death for their heretical failure to conform to the imaginary, McPublic norm. McReagan and McCongress, meanwhile, remain oblivious to the real crisis as they legislate and agitate on behalf of McSolutions to the AIDS McCrisis.

Congress must face the truth of its own homophobia. It does not speak well for heterosexual America that it is willing to justify a single AIDS death through morally coerced legislation. Americans must wake up to the reality of the AIDS crisis and recognize the unconscionable pettiness, spitefulness, fear, and smugness of defending the alleged superiority of the "heterosexual norm."

That may well mean that we must recognize the extent to which we have already contributed to tens of thousands of deaths by scapegoating gay men, intravenous drug users, poor blacks, chicanos and everyone else we regard as separate from the "general population."

In the name of human decency let us speak the truth and demand and implement a compassionate response to the real AIDS crisis. ●



SAFE SEX IS GREAT SEX

LETTERS

Support Your Local Schools

★ If you had occasion to be in a public school classroom this term, you were probably shocked by what you saw. Volunteers for CUAV's Lesbian/Gay Speakers Bureau have spoken to classes of thirty-five students or more without enough chairs to go around. No doubt many of you intend to donate the California tax rebate check you will soon receive to the school district. We are writing to propose a community effort to do just that, together.

Our volunteer speakers address high-school classes on gay and lesbian health, family, and civil rights issues. The San Francisco Unified School District has agreed with us that the concerns of gay men and women belong in the classroom because the schools belong to us too. They are also our responsibility. By signing over your rebate checks with us, you will help to counter the lingering myth that gay people don't care about kids, save as prospective recruits.

The next wave of lesbians and gay men to enter our community will come from these same overcrowded classrooms, as will the next wave of adult voters. Though of course you already support the schools through your taxes, we ask you to consider making this special gift. Let's let the district know these are gay dollars, so that those teachers, parents and students who support us, as well as those who do not, will see that our support of school-age youth is real.

Just write "Pay to the order of SFUSD" on the back of your rebate check, and sign your name. (Or, if you prefer to have a receipt, deposit your rebate and write a check payable to SFUSD for the same amount. You'll have your canceled check for your records.)

Send the checks to: CUAV Speakers Bureau School Fund, 514 Castro Street, San Francisco 94114. We'll present the checks to the district and let you know how much we've collected.

Diana Christensen
Executive Director, CUAV

Patrick Mulcahey, Volunteer
Lesbian/Gay Speakers Bureau

Help Food Bank

★ As the holiday season approaches, we hope that you can help our Food Bank by sponsoring canned food drives for people with AIDS.

We distribute nearly 1,000 bags of groceries per month to people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. This is *double* what we were giving away a year ago. And, frankly, we're worried that we won't have enough food and other necessities this year to boost the holiday spirits of the men and women who rely on us.

You can help by encouraging your co-workers to sponsor a food drive in your workplace. Or by throwing a party and asking your friends to bring a bag of groceries, or by dropping off a donation at our office. Please give us a call at 864-5855 to find out what our clients need and how you can contribute.

Our collective efforts can help hundreds of people who otherwise could not afford to celebrate the holidays this year. Thanks for your support.

Cary Norsworthy
Food Bank Coordinator
S.F. AIDS Foundation

Inexcusable

★ The following letter was sent to Mr. Carl Icahn, Chairman of TransWorld Airlines:

In a recent column by Bill Mandel in the San Francisco Examiner, I read that some members of a TWA flight crew behaved in an ignorant and inexcusable manner toward some of their passengers in an episode that occurred a short time ago. According to Mandel, the group was headed to Washington from Los Angeles on their way to a demonstration for gay civil rights. At St. Louis, some members of the crew demanded that the plane be fumigated before continuing its flight. Apparently, they were motivated by fear of AIDS. It appears that nothing was done to discipline these employees and that TWA does not have an AIDS education program for its employees.

Over the past three or four years I have flown about 160,000 miles on TWA, according to my latest frequent flyer statement. I am reluctant to fly on TWA any more. How can I be sure that such episodes of hysteria and unprofessional behavior will not recur or that for some reason I will be singled out for such treatment?

John Ward
San Francisco

No Bull

★ I would like to commend the International Gay Rodeo Association on their first San Francisco Gay Rodeo. The first of many to come I hope!

Dennis Fargen, Rodeo Director deserves a special thanks for all his energy and time that made the rodeo such a success.

Everyone involved should be well pleased with themselves. They managed to pull off what everyone has talked about for years, a San Francisco gay rodeo.

Once again, thanks to all of you for your effort, energy and time.

Grant Brady
Shirlee Broushard
San Francisco

Poor Taste

★ On Oct. 29 I attended the Mayoral Forum on AIDS produced by the S.F. AIDS Foundation, and I was quite impressed.

First, let me say I went into the Grand Ballroom at the St. Francis Hotel with an open mind. (Granted I had pretty much decided to cast my vote for Art Agnos) nevertheless I wanted to hear what the others had to say (the others being Cesar Ascarunz, Roger Boas, Warren Hinckle and John Molinari.)

All the candidates did their homework and knew what they were talking about, except Molinari, who may have been well informed, but we never got the benefit of that.

Molinari arrived late (in all fairness so did Warren Hinckle) which I thought was in poor taste, gave his opening remarks (all were given 3 minutes to do so) and promptly left saying he had another campaign commitment. Poor planning to say the least. Then, later on TV, I see all 5 candidates on yet another panel at the Press Club. I suppose that shows where Molinari's priorities were that night.

I was impressed with Roger Boas, even with Hinckle, but Art Agnos has my vote for mayor.

Greg Seibert
San Francisco

Folly

★ Benjamin Dhong, Methinks thou doth protest too much. The verbose commentary on B.A.R.'s humorous article on the Boy Party struck me as oddly defensive and far too sensitive. Lighten up.

I chuckled to see the folly of boy-clones and the myth of youth so justly lampooned. The irony of boys primping and pampering and moussing, then sending out the message that it's deathly uncool to express desire for same, is indicative of some warped values that some of us have—values that dwarf us as humans, and too often stick with us, stunting our growth.

Youth is beautiful, but there is as much folly in it as in anything else!

David Bissonette
San Francisco

Need More Facts?

★ If you want to know what a candidate will do after being elected to office, look at what the candidate does beforehand.

Oct. 26, Jack Molinari and five of his colleagues voted against the 70 percent of San Franciscans who are renters who wanted and needed more protection against unjust evictions and unfair rent increases disguised under other names. Not a very radical bill—just common sense to people who still see rents doubling and more.

Supes Molinari, Gonzalez, Silver, Hsieh, Kennedy, and Maher voted to send back to committee a bill that had been before them for nine months.

Did they need more facts and figures? No way. Hearings, letters, and meetings had been full of facts and figures on the need for this legislation.

What five of these supervisors (all but Maher) seemed to think they needed to do was to respond to Jack Molinari's campaign contributors. To make sure they did, Molinari's campaign aides were in supervisors' offices right up to the time of the vote to remind them of that.

I'm voting for Art Agnos because we need those controls. Whether you agree with Art or not about vacancy control, you know we need straightforward public officials who say the same things in public as they do behind closed doors (and open checkbooks), who will tell people the same things on the East and West sides of town.

Richard Allman
San Francisco



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ISSUES

Foundation Accountable

★ While Alan Cranston's and Pete Wilson's votes on Jesse Helms' amendment banning federal funds for gay-oriented, safer sex literature were inexcusable and reactionary, it is also true that much of the gay community has not aggressively challenged government restrictions already in place on the distribution of such literature in the state of California.

As reported at the end of September, the California Republican Party is calling for the prosecution of the Harvey Milk Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation for their distribution of graphic, safer sex materials. But in fact, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has agreed to limit distribution of safer sex materials from their office voluntarily, going so far as to sign a contract with the state which prohibits distributing sexually explicit materials by the Foundation paid for by state or private funds. In return, the AIDS Foundation receives critical funds for important AIDS programs.

This capitulation by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation set an unfortunate precedent which may have allowed Cranston and Wilson to duck their responsibilities and vote against AIDS education funding for the gay community.

At any rate, part of our gay leadership saw fit to cut a deal with Deukmejian's administration and whether or not that was the correct decision to make, it was not a decision they can be proud of. One would think they could have informed the lesbian and gay community how we were being coerced, and then allow the community to wage a campaign against this unconstitutional censorship.

Perhaps some of the energy certain activists have put into confronting Cranston and Wilson can now be channeled into a discussion with the San Francisco AIDS Foundation regarding our community's struggle for freedom of speech, press, and association as it relates to safer sex literature.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation must be credited, of course, for its many achievements, but its reluctance to take on Gov. Deukmejian and his administrative clones has proven short-sighted and dangerous. Regardless of its stature, the AIDS Foundation must be at least as accountable to our community as the politicians whom we elect to represent us.

John Mehring
San Francisco

Use Your Power

★ I would like to ask your readers if they can afford 22 cents and two minutes each week to fight AIDS? If so, please clip the obituary section of the B.A.R. and send it to a politician you feel is not doing his job to fight AIDS.

I think that part of the ignorance that lets these people ignore AIDS is their idea that it is someone else's problem. I can't help but think that their attitudes will change as they look at the faces of those who've died each week.

You can also send the obituary page to other homophobic organizations and institutions. I sent last week's obituaries to Newsweek, asking them about their silence on the March. I told Newsweek their silence contributes to the homophobia that is causing the deaths of tens of thousands from AIDS. I asked them to look into the faces of some of those who died last week.

You are powerful—use that power!

Dean Dvorak
San Francisco

Choose Friends Carefully

★ The following letter was sent to Sup. Harry Britt:

Dear Sup. Britt:

Nice try, Harry, but it's the same old plate of warmed-over tripe the B.A.R. and the Sentinel have been trying to force feed us all year long: John Molinari is a great friend of the gay community. Well how very nice for him. Art Agnos made a rude remark to you when you told him not to run for mayor. Oh please, dear, get a grip on yourself.

The truth, Harry, is that every elected official in this town since Dan White has been a great friend of the gay community—while they were campaigning for office. Molinari's problem is that he forgot to wait until after the election before he betrayed us.

Tell me, where was your dear friend when you stood up to the fag-haters in the Pentagon and demanded nondiscrimination for gay and lesbian civilian employees of the navy? He didn't stand beside you, that's for sure. Instead he joined Mayor Feinstein in her divisive attempt to gain approval for the battleship Missouri by pitting blacks against gays. In newspaper ads directed to the black community, Molinari called discrimination against gays and lesbians a "phony issue." Some friend.

It is perfectly understandable that in 16 years as a politician in San Francisco John Molinari would have made some gay friends. They don't worry me. The ones who do worry me are some of his non-gay friends. Like Richard Nixon. Remember him? Molinari chaired his re-election campaign here in 1972. Among other things, Nixon appointed William Rehnquist and Lewis Powell to the U.S. Supreme Court. But then I suppose some of their best friends are sodomites.

Then there's George Deukmejian. Molinari chaired his campaign for governor in 1982. Good old Duke. We all know what a great pal of gays he turned out to be.

The list goes on: the greedy landlords, the developers who are destroying our city's priceless architectural heritage for the sake of a quick buck, the hundreds of cronies waiting in the wings to take their place in city hall.

You say that the AIDS epidemic was your one and only criteria in deciding who to endorse for mayor. The problem is, there's a whole lot of other issues that have become inextricably linked to AIDS. The business tax, for instance. Your friend John Molinari wants to eliminate it. Has he told you which city services he would cut to offset the \$113 million in lost revenue this would bring about? How could any responsible city leader even talk about giving such a windfall to the corporations in the face of an epidemic that could easily bankrupt the city?

Don't get me wrong, Harry. It's not you I'm mad at. I gave \$100 to your campaign for Congress this year, and you can count on me for another \$100 and a sizeable chunk of my free time in your campaign next for the Assembly seat Art Agnos will vacate the day he takes office as mayor of San Francisco.

But please, Harry, try and be more careful in the future about who you choose as your friends.

Leonard Whitney
San Francisco

Where's The Proof?

★ This letter was sent to the Hon. Jesse Helms, U.S. Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C.:

Dear Sen. Jesse Helms:

While I agree that no AIDS education materials should promote unsafe sex practices, I must take strong exception to your published remarks (if you have been correctly quoted) made in connection with your proposed amendment to the labor, health and human resources and education appropriations bill for fiscal 1988.

You charge that "every case of AIDS can be traced back to a homosexual act." Where is your proof that this is true in every case? What evidence do you have to support such a declaration?

You state that "every Christian ethic cries out for (you) to do something" and that you "call a spade a spade, a perverted human being a perverted human being."

Well, senator, I am male, 67 years of age, and I have had many loving physical relationships with both men and women during my lifetime. I do not in any way consider myself a perverted human being. But if I am, I join the ranks of such men as Socrates, Shakespeare, Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Wagner, Tchaikovsky, Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman; Herman Melville, Noel Coward, Tennessee Williams and so many other illustrious personages that I can't possibly list them all here.

Frankly, I would much prefer to associate myself with people of this sort who have made positive contributions to humanity than to the Jesse Helms (or any other senators) of this world who self-righteously feel it incumbent upon them to judge and condemn people who do not have similar moral standards to their own.

I am also a Christian. But I am not a Christian who believes in an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. I am a Christian who tries—not always successfully, I admit, but who nevertheless tries—not to judge his fellow man too harshly and believes it is his moral duty to show compassion and understanding for others. Yes, even those others who are sinners and with whom I might disagree on some points.

Bernard Shaw once stated that more crimes have been committed in the name of Christianity than in the name of any other known religion. An accurate study of world history must show this to be true. The modern fundamentalists continue their witch-hunts, calling spades spades and labelling those who do not agree with them on sexual matters as "perverted human beings."

You declare that the subject matter of the comic book under discussion is "so obscene, so revolting, it is difficult for me to stand here and talk about it. I may throw up." May I ask, senator, do you throw up when your doctor explains your own body functions? These are physiological facts and should not be offensive to any adult person. As Sigmund Freud put it, "Nothing human disgusts me."

AIDS is a disease, not a disgrace. It is a disease which can strike anyone in our society today, even members of Congress or citizens of your own noble state of North Carolina.

I urge you to concentrate your time and energies to educate people on how to avoid AIDS—yes, of course, and to do that in a manner that befits your conscience. But please, forget about name-calling and playing God and making moral judgments on your fellow men. This isn't the time for such bigotry and self-righteousness.

Dean Goodman
San Francisco

A Show of Unity

★ Well, last night (election night), I spent the duration of the evening at the Agnos campaign headquarters. There was a festivity in the air that reminded me so much of the days of George Moscone and Harvey Milk and grassroots campaigning. There were members of the Black community, the Asian community, the Hispanic community, the Native American community, the Arab and Jewish communities, seniors and young people, gays and lesbians, trade unionists and a multitude of community organizations.

It was a delightful show of San Francisco coming together to vote the kind of leadership which will not only bring San Francisco together, as this city was before the Feinstein dynasty, but will do so in a way typical of San Franciscans, pursuing their ideals, understanding their responsibilities to work close with the candidacy of Agt Agnos, to ensure that our needs are met.

Two important things have occurred in this election. We have aligned ourselves with a candidate who dares to speak to progressive issues, who has proven himself in the past when we needed him in the Assembly. Second, we have come together as a grassroots organization from which the most powerful political forces can be elected and developed.

While I have no doubt that Art Agnos will be the next mayor of this city, it is a time when each and every person who loves this city and what it has always stood for, unites in working for the success of Art's election as mayor in December. I am proud to have played an active but limited role in Art Agnos' campaign, but now I must pledge more than ever before to ensure his December victory.

For those of us in the gay and lesbian community, and every other community with which we are coalesced, we have a chance to change the direction of our city into one of caring for those of us who have been disenfranchised by those who promote business as usual and those special private interests that do not relate to human need, but rather human greed at City Hall.

Richard Paul Bornstein
San Francisco

Informed

★ It occurred to me recently that one's hesitation in getting tested for the HIV antibody, assuming anonymity was already assured, was the overwhelming feeling of hopelessness that might accompany a positive result.

Let's face it—if you felt you had syphilis, you'd get tested because you'd know it was treatable. But until recently, I think many people preferred not to be tested for HIV because of the perception that nothing could be done to help yourself if you tested positive.

Those days seem to be over. I recently attended a meeting of Project Inform, a group set up to disseminate information on available experimental treatments of AIDS, ARC, and HIV seropositivity. There were over 100 people there, all getting the latest information on treatment choices. I saw in their eyes refreshing glimmers of hope as the speakers made their wonderfully informative presentations.

I found out that not only does Project Inform hold these periodic meetings, but they also have a national hotline (locally, call [415] 928-0293; statewide [800] 334-7422; nationally, [800] 822-7422) which is staffed four days a week by people knowledgeable about treatments.

Further, they send out information packets about treatment choices. And perhaps as important, the leadership of Project Inform acts as a watchdog on the FDA and drug companies pushing and prodding at all times for release of information and viable treatments.

In short, they provide inspiration and pragmatic information in a practical, articulate fashion, and to my knowledge are the first group to cover this important area of the AIDS picture. I came away from the meeting with a great deal of respect for the organization, and I'm sure that most of those in attendance that night would agree. They deserve our support.

Randy Warder
San Francisco

Moonie Mentality

★ Letter writers Tony Monroe and George Wicke (Oct. 29), who complained about the indiscretions of Agnos campaign workers, make valid points.

While I voted for Art Agnos and still think he is the right man for the job, I cannot abide the overbearing attitudes of his campaign workers. In particular, I object to their complete lack of respect for individual privacy.

Last month, very early on a weekend morning, a group of four Agnos campaign workers stationed themselves at my building's front door, laden with copies of his book. They proceeded to use the security phone to dial each resident and inform us of their purpose and their offering. They asked each of us to buzz them in—i.e. to open the front door and let them enter the building.

At one point they even braced open the front door so as to better display their materials and accost people entering and leaving.

This cannot possibly have helped the Agnos campaign. I know that at least two of the building's irritated residents made their voting decisions that day, resolving to vote against Art Agnos.

This kind of intrusive behavior borders on the Moonie mentality, and I will not again allow the violation which it constitutes. Since I presume we will now suffer another month of this onslaught before the runoff, I would like to submit this warning to the two candidates: Keep your damn disciples away from our homes.

Randy Wellington
San Francisco

Bad Business

★ Copies of this letter were sent to both *Newsweek* and *Life* magazines:

It was my understanding that you were planning on running an extensive photo article on The Names Project, and the making of the quilt memorializing people who have died of AIDS.

I now understand that you have decided that the topic is no longer timely, and therefore will not run the story. It is my belief, the belief of the 650,000 who marched on Washington, D.C. on Oct. 11, and the belief of those millions who could not attend, that remembering and mourning our loved ones will not lose its timeliness. In this case, with a disease of such epic proportions, we will all be mourning the loss of loved ones for many years to come.

Therefore, I am sending this letter to many local and national newspapers, and we in San Francisco who have watched this epidemic, and its quilt, grow over the years, are calling for a national boycott of your magazine. If the 650,000 who attended the quilt's unveiling, plus the millions who didn't but eagerly awaited your article, all cancel our subscriptions and tell everyone we know to do the same, you will become aware of the insult your decision is to those of us who put people over business. In addition, you will lose the prospective sale of all those copies of your special article, and that is bad business.

Marjorie Sheffield
Oakland, CA

Supports Olympics

★ In response to Sasha Alyson of Boston, and the people who have been destroying their Visa credit cards: Although I have considered cutting up my Visa card, it has been for other more obvious reasons.

Because some U.S. Olympic committee members, and some judge decided that the word "Olympic" could not be used for the Gay Games, does this make the Olympics themselves a bad charity or event? The Olympics are, in my opinion a very worthwhile charity. I have a gay friend who had the thrilling experience of representing our country in the Olympics and it is something that we are very proud of.

Also, something must be said about the valiant efforts on the part of Visa (and Mastercard) for their new program of putting money into the needing arms of charity, instead of the full pockets of big business. This, to me, is amazing and something I thought I would only see happen in my wildest dreams! This is a project to be applauded rather than discouraged.

I will also never forget the proud moment in history: the Gay Games. I was able to participate by singing with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for the closing ceremony.

As for Alyson's plan for a sculpture made of the destroyed cards—methinks, Tom Waddell would look much better cast in bronze and standing in a Muni station somewhere!

Tom Sims
Guerneville, CA



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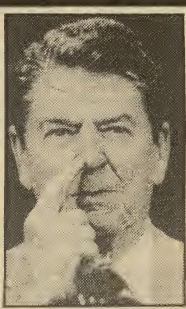
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NEWS

Rather Not

★ The following was sent to Dan Rather at CBS News:

Over the years I have come to respect and admire CBS newscasts, especially with you at the helm of the Evening News. It is difficult for me to convey how utterly disappointed I was with your newscast on Tuesday Oct. 13, specifically with your coverage of the civil disobedience at the Supreme Court.

In the 26 seconds you allocated you neither described the nature of the demonstration nor explained why it was that 840 persons had chosen to be arrested at the Supreme Court (instead of, for example, a lunch counter or a gas station). The primary focus of your report was that many of the arresting officers wore surgical gloves.

It may interest you to know that while CBS was virtually ignoring the event, ABC World News devoted nearly two minutes of coverage with a carefully developed explanation of what the demonstration was about and why the demonstrators chose the Supreme Court site.

In his newscast (Oct. 13), Peter Jennings made repeated references to the issues of civil rights and discrimination against lesbians and gays, and he tied the demonstration at the Supreme Court to the events of the previous four days during which hundreds of thousands of protestors gathered in Washington, DC, lobbied members of Congress, and marched on the Capitol.

Why was your coverage of the event so shoddy?

William Sweigart
San Francisco

Save CUAV

★ I have lived in San Francisco since December 1981 and have had occasion to use the services of CUAV. The staff was always sensitive and supportive, and provided the follow-up that I required, both bureaucratic and emotional.

In my mind, the healthy presence of CUAV is a symbol of caring through periods of confused identity of what our community is and how it should be represented. I have seen other community service organizations come and go (such as the Pride Foundation), usually for reasons of mismanagement.

CUAV has had its problems with personalities for years but through pride, duty and the responsibility of the staff, the organization has managed to carry on. During each of these periods, I hear that "dealing with Diana Christensen" is a persistent problem for members of staff. I have overlooked this as the price some people have to pay for sound leadership.

Now, however, CUAV is facing the most critical period of its life. Most of the staff has quit because of irreconcilable differences with Christensen. Several members of the board have resigned and the organization is on the brink of collapse. From all appearances Christensen will have her way even if it means the death of one of the most effective community service organizations that the Castro has ever had (aside from the health care groups). This is very sad and very selfish.

I have learned these things not from direct conversations with any members of the board or staff. But there is talk. And what I have heard everywhere is that Christensen is inducing the suicide of CUAV. I would not discard all that she has done for CUAV or the gay community. But she is just one individual and there have been many others who have given themselves tirelessly to service through CUAV (and who have been much easier to work with).

As a quasi-public agency, the affairs of this organization are not wholly subject to city or state government or to any other representative body. Community response may be our only hope for the survival of CUAV. As a member of the gay community who feels that the survival of CUAV is vital to our collective health, I call for the immediate resignation of Diana Christensen from all positions in CUAV, and the return of staff members who had to leave in good conscience.

No one asked me to write this letter but the more I heard and the more helpless I felt, the more I realized that community members need to speak out as individuals about this sad occurrence.

David Kline
San Francisco

Bending Convictions

★ Mayor Feinstein:

After having admired your performance as mayor all these years, and especially after the murders of Mayor Moscone and Harvey Milk, I must write and protest your stance taken on mandatory testing for the AIDS virus.

I am sorely disappointed and have the distinct impression that you feel you no longer need the support of the "gay vote," and are, at the least, bending

your convictions to cater to the hysterical right wing. The "gay vote," perceived as no longer necessary to win elections, will be cast aside. As usual.

How can you justify such a stance? Pray tell me, once information has been gathered on who has been exposed to the AIDS virus (distinct from having AIDS as you are aware), then what? What will be done with that information? What will become of the people discovered to have been exposed to the virus?

Will prison inmates be kept in jail? Will the others in what you call "high risk groups" be quarantined? Branded? Names printed in the press so all "innocent" persons can avoid them? Just what, your Honor, is the purpose behind your proposal?

A majority of the experts in the field of public health and particularly AIDS researchers have repeatedly spoken out against mandatory testing. It serves no purpose. It will not prevent the spread of the virus. Only education will do that at this point in the plague.

As a San Francisco who has lost fifteen people to this disease, I am ashamed of your stance. You prove again that a politician is a politician is a politician.

Tadhg O'Shields
San Francisco

We Conquered

★ The tears have dried, the cheers are mute, the bodies tired and pride, happiness subdued. What did we learn? What were our gains? The answer is 500,000 positive people that will return to every corner of the USA and spread a story of love, sorrow, compassion and family to all of us. Our goal could be closer if we continue to go forward. We conquered D.C. We received respect, understanding and compassion from the smallest hotel person to Congress persons of Washington.

Our message was heard across this great nation—"We are an enormous family and will be reckoned with."

Do get involved, no matter how small. I did and I found the results totally rewarding.

Bill Grove
San Francisco

More Throwing Up

★ Dear Senator Helms:

Reading about your opposition to the comic book showing safe sex between two men made me want to throw up. Same-sex love is a reality of human life, and the sooner you begin to deal with it, the less danger will you be to society. Attempting to shield youngsters from the truth as you and your cohorts have done under the guise of Christian ethics is tyranny of the worst nature.

I feel that your holier-than-thou, omniscient Christian superiority is bigotry and intolerance in disguise. Over ten percent of the children you attempt to protect are gay and you render them a grievous disservice by misrepresenting the truth and withholding it from them.

Furthermore, I am a homosexual and I resent your referring to me as a perverted human being. How dare you pronounce such defamatory judgement on another human being! If I am correct, your holy bible leaves that judgement up to God.

There are over 25 million homosexuals in the United States today. Last week in Washington, D.C., over half a million of us were there to march for our human civil rights. We are creatures of God and citizens of the same America as you are. Shame on you for even suggesting that we are perverted second-class citizens! We are human beings entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, too.

Jerry Walker
San Francisco

Pleased

★ I just wanted to congratulate you on your excellent coverage of the March—especially with what must have been an incredibly short deadline. I was pleased to see that the primary March article was written by Mary Richards. I always look forward to reading her articles. No matter what the topic, she manages to make it very interesting and real.

I also look forward to see more of Darlene's photos of the March. I hope you will be including some in future issues. The March was a terrific experience and I'll never tire of being reminded of it.

M. J. Purtle
Albany, CA

NATIONAL & WORLD NEWS

Flight Delayed For Fear of AIDS

WASHINGTON, DC—A flight from Los Angeles carrying people heading for the Oct. 11 March on Washington was delayed for an hour in St. Louis so that airline personnel could clean and disinfect the seats believed to have been occupied by gay people and people with AIDS. Trans World Airlines (TWA) flight attendants on Flight 60 reportedly requested that blankets, pillows, magazines be removed and the area cleaned to prevent the transmission of AIDS.

The incident has prompted a number of investigations into what happened. TWA has said that it has a strict policy of non-discrimination against persons with AIDS.

According to some reports, members of the crew became concerned when a passenger with AIDS became ill from air sickness and vomited. They were unsure of how to clean up the vomit from carpeting.

A representative for the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants (IFFA) said, "Our position on this sort of thing is clear. Flight attendants should make sure passengers with AIDS are treated the same as any other passengers." She said that the policy is to use the U.S. Centers for Disease Control guidelines in such matters. The CDC specifies using bleach and plastic gloves for cleaning, but no extraordinary measures.

The IFFA is due to begin an AIDS education program for flight attendants. That plan has been sidetracked due to labor disputes.

—Washington Blade

House Committee OKs Violence Bill

WASHINGTON, DC—The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives voted 22-11 on Oct. 20 to retain sexual language in a bill that requires the Justice Department to compile statistics on hate crimes. H.R. 3193, the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, calls for the U.S. Justice Department to collect and publish data "on the incidence of criminal acts that manifest prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnicity."

According to the Washington Blade, the vote marks the first time a Congressional committee has approved legislation that includes a gay rights provision.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) agreed to include sexual orientation in his bill over the objections

of conservatives and religious fundamentalists.

Rep. Patrick Swindall (R-GA) spoke against the clause on sexual orientation, saying it would help "normalize homosexuality" and undermine "God's natural law."

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA), who serves on the Judiciary Committee and is one of two openly gay members of Congress, called the vote a "major breakthrough." In the past, said Frank, "Members of Congress were afraid to say they believed prejudice against gays is an important issue."

The bill is expected to go to the House floor for a vote next year.

—Washington Blade

Fundies Rap Bishop For Not Opposing Rights Ordinance

Chicago—A group of anti-gay church leaders has publicly criticized Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, head of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese there, for not opposing a gay rights ordinance under consideration by the Chicago City Council.

Rev. Erwin Lutzer, spokesman for the Christian Coalition of Chicago Families, said, "If the Catholic Church does not rise to the occasion—from Cardinal Bernardin all the way down—in standing in opposition to this ordinance, we as positive evangelicals are going to be very confused." Lutzer said he represented more than 350 Chicago area churches.

Sister Joy Clough, speaking for the Archdiocese, said that the church had not changed its position on homosexuality but has decided not to be politically active. She said that Bernardin's active opposition in 1986 to a similar measure "had caused a lot of dismay in the city."

According to the Chicago Tribune, Bernardin's opposition then was a significant factor in the ordinance's defeat.

When the measure was re-introduced this year, the Archdiocese issued a statement that homosexuality was immoral and that it opposes laws that would protect such activity. But the church added that it objects to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The bill is expected to be considered by the city council before the end of 1987.

—Chicago Tribune

No Security Clearance Costs Man Job

NORFOLK, VA—A civilian nuclear technician has filed charges of discrimination with the Virginia Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Tom Casteel alleges that Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock, a large defense contractor, refused to hire him because he is gay.

Casteel said that he had been hired in August. But when his employer discovered that he had been discharged from the Navy for homosexuality, they decided he would never be able to get the necessary security clearance.

"They said in effect," said Casteel, "they had no work for me."

Casteel is basing his complaint on a recent ruling by U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Thelton Henderson that threw out Department of Defense guidelines on security clearances because they were discriminatory against gay people.

A representative of the EEOC has said that his agency would likely not get involved in the case because he felt it was out of its jurisdiction.

—Our Own Community Press



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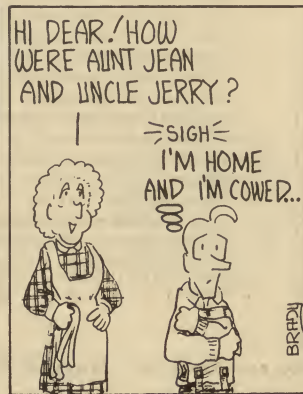
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LIFE AT THE CLOSET DOOR



Molinari Digs Out

As one who has long been a supporter of the Molinari for Mayor cause, I have been asked time and time again in the past few days, often by those who I convinced to vote for Jack Molinari, what happened to the campaign.

A number of things happened. If I had to put it in a word (or two) I would say: Campaign Management. Never have I seen a campaign, run by those who call themselves "professionals," run so badly. Ron Smith, and those closest to him, assumed from the start, that because they had the best-known candidate, that they could simply sit back, parade the candidate out to all the "correct places before the correct people," spend the money they had collected, and assume that Art Agnos would never get off the ground.

Smith never learned that a campaign for mayor of San Francisco was indeed quite different from running millionaire Ed Zschau for the U.S. Senate. When it was first revealed months ago that Art Agnos had made financial deals with controversial Sacramento developer Angelo Tsakopoulos—and become rich by doing so—the Molinari campaign never took advantage of the negative press Agnos received.

Agnos people successfully did their damage-control and it soon was erased from the front pages. Not to say that Art Agnos was any less involved in shady land deals, but his people managed to cover



Ron Smith

(Photo: B. Jones)

it by putting out issues—something that Ron Smith never believed was necessary for Molinari.

Agnos was able to put together a successful field operation, the Molinari effort along that line was a joke—again, something Ron Smith apparently couldn't be bothered with.

When Molinari kicked off his effort at a \$100-per luncheon attended by nearly 1,200 in June, he was so far ahead in the polls that nearly all, even the Agnos faithful, thought it was over. Several things happened that are embarrassing to say the least.

Some of my closest friends—and some of Jack Molinari's closest friends—were saying "this campaign is Molinari's to lose." Well, he has managed to do just that.

What kind of campaign manager sends out a "hit piece" on

an opponent who has a paltry 7 percent standing in the polls? What kind of a campaign manager sends out a "hit piece" on City Attorney Louise Renne the day she pulls out of the race?

So what if Jack Molinari raised a million bucks? Eventually, all of the three leading candidates would spend like amounts. But the Molinari campaign couldn't be content filing a report saying they had raised the million. They had to send out a press release bragging about it! Where the hell did they spend it? His headquarters volunteers complained that they had to beg Smith to order such mundane necessities as house signs and buttons.

The Agnos campaign put together a successful field operation that enrolled hundreds of volunteers. In the closing weeks of the campaign,

Art Agnos' name appeared all over town—one couldn't drive to work or walk to the neighborhood grocery without being confronted with Agnos' name on every utility pole. When the Molinari headquarters was asked about this, the reply came that "Ron doesn't like snipe signs." When asked about television ads, once again: "Ron doesn't like television."

Apparently, the only thing Ron Smith really believed in was radio and mailer hit-pieces. Those close to Jack Molinari tell me that from the start he disapproved of the highly controversial negative mailers, but let his campaign "experts" talk him into it.

How much did the "frontrunner" role play in the campaign? What did the local press add, or detract, from the Molinari effort? There are those who tell me that City Hall writers who have covered Molinari for years at the Board of Supervisors particularly disliked him and that showed in some of the stories that appeared covering the mayoral campaign. Few would deny that daily anti-Molinari stories from one particular Examiner political writer and consistent anti-Molinari items in the column of the Examiner's Rob Morse were a definite indication of how that paper's endorsement would go.

At the same time, reporters who cover Sacramento are said to think little of Art Agnos. But they seldom wrote of the San Francisco mayoral race and never did their feelings about the Assemblyman play a part in the race.

Did Jack Molinari's personality become an issue? It probably did. The supervisor is known to have a short temper and is reported to at times come down unnecessarily hard on his subordinates. Those rumors, fueled by his appearance in the Oct. 14 television debate did little to quell the "arrogant" rumors about Molinari.

Campaign staffers complained, too, that their candidate caused unnecessary problems by his annoying habit of showing up for appearances late, and sometimes ignoring scheduled appearances altogether, leaving his staff to make explanations.

Art Agnos stunned political observers by his strong showing on election night and the safe money is that he will defeat John Molinari in the Dec. 8 run-off. The run-off campaign is only a 34-day effort and those who want to be on the safe side are already deserting the Molinari effort, hoping to curry favor with Agnos. Political expediency is nothing new to those who have long been active in the political wars.

If I had the access that many think I had to Jack Molinari, I would have advised him to get a new campaign manager eight weeks ago.

Can his new political manager, Jack Davis, still win this run-off campaign? It's possible, but not probable. As one who has known Sup. Molinari for a dozen years, I still believe that he is the best person to succeed Dianne Feinstein as mayor. This city will certainly survive under either Agnos or Molinari, but Jack Molinari is by far the best qualified to be mayor. San Francisco will be best served if he is elected Dec. 8.

Sheriff Michael Hennessey was the highest vote-getter Nov. 3 by easily defeating two minor candidates,

one a gay man who had been fired from the department after his arrest on a pandering charge. Political pundits were saying that Hennessey has a real future in possibly seeking higher office.

In some smaller Bay Area cities anti-growth candidates lost big (particularly in Marin County) while an anti-growth candidate won a key seat in Walnut Creek where the population boom has become a hot political issue.

"Just say NO"—that's what Judge Douglas Ginsberg should have probably said when asked if he was a pothead. Who said the Reagan Administration hasn't become a joke?

Incidentally, Gov. George Deukmejian is now saying that State Sen. Ken Maddy's (R-Fresno) admission that he smoked marijuana while in the Air Force in the 1950s and in the 1970s while he was a legislator will definitely be a "factor" as to whether or not he will be appointed State Treasurer (he won't be). Once thought to be the favorite for the appointment, Maddy will lose out to conservative Rep. Dan Lungren of Long Beach. The pot revelation gave the Duke just the reason he needed to drop Maddy, the favorite of moderate Republicans. Lungren is Deukmejian's hometown congressman.

Though many of Jack Molinari's ardent supporters are still shaking their heads at how he let his big lead get away, an overflow crowd of several hundred showed up Tuesday night to help open his new headquarters at Judah and 32nd Avenue.

Overheard at City Hall election night as Prop. P (district elections) was going down to defeat: "Well, there go the careers of Supervisors (Cleve) Jones and (Pat) Norman."

Another observer commented that "it looks like Shilts will have to write yet another book to help resurrect Cleve's career again."

Does Board President Nancy Walker know that supervisors in Los Angeles are paid \$81,505 annually plus cars and other perks?

Joan Baez, Mimi Farina, Jerry Garcia and friends, and the Gay & Lesbian Chorus are among the entertainers at a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund at the Warfield Theatre Dec. 17 (call the theater for ticket info).

The next gubernatorial election is nearly three years away, but the Duke is getting an early start. A single GOP fundraiser in Los Angeles last week netted him \$1.2 million while another half million was raised for his expected re-election campaign in San Francisco last night.

In Madison, Wisconsin, City Councilman Jim McFarland, 22, a Republican, revealed his homosexuality, saying that he "wanted to show some political courage." McFarland says that he hopes the GOP will show more acceptance of gays, but admitted that "most gays who are Republicans go into a closet."

How about Art Agnos? He's 23 percentage points ahead and he spends three hours courting the likes of John Barbagelata? And it's John Molinari that the righteous press is accusing of reaching out to the Right! One has to wonder what Henry Bertram, the Rev. Cecil Williams, and a few others have to think about this.

A MESSAGE TO PEOPLE WITH AIDS AND ARC...



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The Family Link also has a small group of volunteers who are available to meet people at the airport and provide limited in-city transportation.

To make an appointment to see the facility or to make a reservation, call 346-9973. Ask for Sr. Ruth or Ray Cope.

Too Much Joy

I did an extraordinary thing several Sundays ago, at least for a self-described atheist. I spent the morning, a perfectly good morning when I might have been reading the paper or working out at the gym, in church.

Not just any church, mind you, but a church with crystals rather than crosses on the altar and D.J.'s rather than organists in the balcony—a New Age church called Radiant Light Ministries.

I went because a friend told me that it is this year's answer to last year's bingo games and the previous year's jockstrap contests—The Absolute Latest Thing.

Another friend, however, took a more serious view. "I know I've always been a cynic," he confessed. "But I've never been in a place with so much positive energy. It helps me to cope with my ever-increasing anxiety, particularly in this age of AIDS."

Intrigued by cultural curiosity and the spiritual quest, I arrived at the church, presently housed in the Swedish American Hall on Market Street, in time for the pre-service Healing Circle. This is a "process" designed to enable congregation members to explore their problems in a group setting in the hopes of coming to grips with them.

In the Healing Circle, four or five people out of 40 asked for help with such problems as sexuality, anorexia, debt, and physical pain. Each time, the moderator, Diane Bechtle, asked probing, albeit leading, questions concerning the source of the problem and its resolution.

In every case, the origin of the problem was the same—"not accepting myself" or "not being who I am"—as was the resolution—a willingness to accept responsibility for the past and to love one's self in the future.

As tears flowed fast and furious and empathy flooded the room, I found myself wondering if these people really expected to solve their problems, some quite serious, in the course of a 15-minute public confessional.

I also objected to the moderator's assertion that we are all responsible for everything that's ever happened to us, including, in one instance, an ugly case of child abuse.

What I admired, however, was the emphasis on free choice and on the future. The overriding theme was joy, not guilt; love, not sin. "In the name of God, my higher self," the group promised itself, concluding, "And so it is."

A few minutes later, I was browsing the literature in the foyer downstairs. Brochures, flyers, and pamphlets advertised stress reduction massage, spiritual counseling, AIDS mastery seminars, gourmet cooking, and cosmetic tattooing. "Experience Bliss!" headlined one. Others promised "Body Harmony" and "Living Orgasm."

In an adjacent room, tapes and books by "Rev. Matt" Garrigan, the church's dynamic founder, were displayed for sale.

The church service itself, which is termed a "celebration," was structured surprisingly like the Methodist services of my childhood. Following a welcome to visitors, morning announcements, and an opening meditation, Rev. Matt gave "Today's Message." This was followed by an offering, an affirmation, and a closing song. Similarities aside,



Whether it's Grace Cathedral or the Swedish American Hall, gay people turn to spirituality (Photo: S. Martin)

the style and substance of the service was something else entirely.

For one thing, there was a lot of clapping, cheering, hugging, and laughing the morning I attended. The celebration began not with hymns or processional music but with the theme from *Chariots of Fire*. To release their

energy, the congregation stood up and roared. Moments later, they danced in the aisles to disco music.

The focus of Rev. Matt's message was simple. "We are children of God," he said. "We are guiltless and free of sin." He delivered this message in a rambling barrage of platitudes,

epigrams, and amusing anecdotes.

Typical Garriganisms included, "All these years of waiting for the Second Coming, and you're it. There is no one like you;" "Your brain doesn't understand can't; it only understands more;" and "They say you've got to be an airhead, out of your mind, to believe all this. It's true. We are."

As Garrigan spoke, I found myself reacting the same way I reacted to Diane Bechtle. I objected to the simplicity of his philosophy: "You're fabulous just the way you are. There is no remedy to love but to love more." I also opposed his assertion that "Everything that's been going on in your life up to this point is exactly what you've needed and wanted."

But my hostility waned in the face of Garrigan's emphasis on self-reliance and the possibility of change. There is no one else out there, he instructs. Love yourself, and all else falls into place.

If all this sounds unfocused, well, it is. But this doesn't bother Garrigan, who says, "What we don't need is another dogma, another religion." While some of his personal beliefs are outlandish—he believes in immortality, for instance, not just of the soul but also of his physical body—it is not the particulars that attract his following.

Rather, it is his charisma and, as my friend said, the "positive energy" of the celebration. Followers believe what they want, within a wide range, at Radiant Light Ministries. Its embrace is inclusive, not exclusive.

"Perhaps too inclusive," I

thought before I visited Radiant Light. Having long worshipped at the altar of rationality, I find it hard to understand people who believe in "manifesting" their rent payment through prayer or conquering a virus by wishing it away. As one who views crystals, another popular New Age phenomenon, as the mood rings of the 80s, I wonder, "How can intelligent people possibly believe all this crap?"

Yet many of the people I admire and respect most in this world swear by the new ministry on Market Street, and I think I see why. While I still don't share their enthusiasm, at least I no longer belittle it.

Even so, one doubt remains. That this church should have grown out of the gay community, with its shared history of guilt, struggle, and eventual acceptance, is not at all surprising. What is surprising, however, is that so many people still need to hear the church's message. Is there that much self-doubt lingering in the community that people need to be told, over and over, that they are good, loving, worthwhile individuals? It seems so. Yet what of it? Better a Matt Garrigan to serve that need than a Jerry Falwell to deny it.

After the service, a friend hugged me and asked if I were coming back the next week. I hesitated. "What's the matter?" he needed. "Can't you handle this much joy?"

"Oh, I can handle it," I replied. "I'm just not sure that this is the way I choose to express it."

As my friend himself would say, "And so it is." ●

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CITY ATHLETIC CLUB



The AIDS Vigil marked its second anniversary recently (Photo: Rink)

Homeless

(Continued from page 1)

Bob Prentice, director of the city's Health Care for the Homeless Project, said of estimates of people with AIDS or ARC living in Golden Gate Park, "numbers in the hundreds would not be surprising to me."

Officials were first alerted to the impending crisis a year ago, but fledgling efforts to develop housing alternatives have been hindered. Infighting between city agencies, a lack of coordination

in delivering patient services, and lack of cooperation by some hotel owners and manager are among the problems.

Jim Foster, a member of the city Health Commission, said, "I have been so frustrated for the last year over the lack of leadership emanating from the highest office of this administration." He said past efforts by the city to develop a plan for the homeless have yielded "broken promises and broken commitments."

Moreover, city and federal assistance programs do not pay sufficient benefits to enable peo-

ple to meet the high cost of rent in San Francisco, and still be able to afford other necessities such as food and medicine.

At Foster's initiative, the Health Commission approved a resolution directing its AIDS Office to prepare a plan to coordinate housing services for people with AIDS or ARC. The proposal is scheduled to be presented to the commission in January, in conjunction with the city's five-year plan for overall AIDS services.

Dr. Tom Peters, the assistant director for health, said Foster's resolution grows out of a realization that "somewhere down the line, this [mayoral] administration or next, we're going to have to talk about a properly constituted housing program for AIDS patients."

Mayor Feinstein's homeless program—which includes people with AIDS—emphasizes the use of transient hotels and shelters. People seeking access to the system are forced to stand in line for several hours to receive vouchers that entitle them to a three- or five-day stay in a hotel room.

Meanwhile, long-term housing is lacking—or non-existent.

EXPEDITED

Dorothy Enisman, the homeless coordinator for the Department of Social Services, said clients who can prove they have AIDS or ARC are expedited through the system. But she acknowledges that they are still subject to delays and inconvenience.

Jeffrey Amory, the director of the AIDS Office, said the city's homeless program—with its emphasis on transience—is an inappropriate vehicle for sheltering

THE HOMELESS:

Folsom Street Hotel Program Is Revived

by Tim Taylor

New management has revived the trouble-ridden AIDS/ARC program at the Folsom Street Hotel.

Earlier this year, the city Department of Social Services arranged with building owner Charles Patel to place a residential program in the building at 1082 Folsom St. Patel, in turn, hired Michael Amin to oversee the building as a live-in manager. Amin moved into the building with his family.

Under the city's plan, Catholic Social Services was hired to provide residents with a full range of services including counseling, patient advocacy and money management.

The CSS contract provided that between 30 and 40 residents with AIDS or ARC would participate in the program, selected from referrals by hospitals, community based organizations and other city agencies.

The program ran into immediate problems, however, when Amin developed a fear that he and his family would be exposed to AIDS through casual contact with residents.

Amin closed the only bathroom with a bathtub, and he was accused of making homophobic remarks to residents. Moreover, he barred CSS from allowing AIDS patients to move in, and the census of people with AIDS never rose above 17. Last week, the number of residents had dipped to three.

After months of failed negotiations, CSS brought a complaint before the Human Rights Commission. In a deal brokered in the

office of AIDS Coordinator Norm Nickens, Patel removed Amin from the building and brought in a nonprofit managing agent.

The change has brought about a marked improvement in the building, according to Kevin Gogin, who heads the CSS program. Since last Sunday, when the new manager took over, maintenance in the building has improved, and new residents with AIDS and ARC are being encouraged to move in.

PROBLEMS PERSIST

For Gogin, the switch in management is only a temporary respite, however.

Problems persist with the physical structure of the building, including the absence of an elevator. Rooms are small, and Gogin would prefer a setting where each resident has a private toilet.

CSS is engaged in a search for a new site to purchase. But that effort has run up against the high purchase price of real estate in San Francisco.

Moreover, Gogin says that as inadequate as Folsom Street Hotel is, most other sites he has surveyed are even worse. So far, he has inspected 25 sites for either purchase or rental.

CSS may have finally identified a location to move into, but it will be up to a year before the residents of the Folsom can move.

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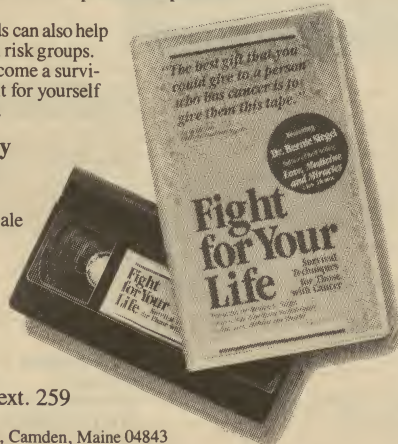
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people with AIDS. "You can't provide health care services and you can't provide support services to people who are not in a stable residential setting," he said.

Peters added, "We have to discuss some way in which homeless AIDS programs get separated from homeless programs." People with AIDS or ARC "must keep a sense of control over their living situation," he said.

But the development of permanent housing has been impeded by a view from City Hall which says an expansive program will make the city a magnet for AIDS homeless throughout the region.

Enisman said, "In terms of permanent housing, I don't think it's available." To develop permanent housing "would draw more and more people here. I think I would go to a place where I would be better taken care of."

5-WEEK WAIT

On paper, the city says up to 87 beds are available to house people in programs run by Shanti Project and Catholic Social Services (CSS).

An additional 21 beds opened this month at Baker Places, a residential treatment facility for substance abusers. But the actual availability of beds at any one time can fall far short of that number.

Shanti Project's residence program operates at full capacity, and keeps a waiting list of up to two months. The average wait is five weeks.

The CSS program, located at the Folsom Street Hotel, has been jinxed from the start by problems with the building's management. After a lengthy dispute which nearly caused the collapse of the program, the management was removed last week and people with AIDS are returning to the building.

But meeting the \$405-a-month rent at Folsom presents potential residents with a big financial burden.

Recipients of Social Security disability payments who are homeless get \$611 a month in benefits. No city money is available to help SSI clients defray the cost of rent, although CSS is providing unofficial help for the time being.

Recipients of General Assistance fare even worse. Of their monthly \$311 grant, they must pay \$220 in rent. That leaves \$91 a month for other expense. The city makes up the difference in rent.

The high rent is a disincentive for many people to participate in the structured living environment provided by CSS which offers counseling, money management and other services.

TRANSITION TO WHAT?

Many who cannot afford the Folsom St. Hotel are forced into shelters or lower-rent hotels where physical conditions are poor. Gloria Valores of Independent Housing Services said some of these hotels are "so substandard that they constitute an ad-

(Continued on next page)



Lovers Ray Vickers and James McCord spent their honeymoon at the AIDS Vigil (Photo: Rink)

Homeless

(Continued from previous page)

ditiional health hazard."

With permanent housing almost impossible to find, homeless people with AIDS are pushed into a maze of temporary, emergency situations.

But emergency programs such as one operated by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation provide only short-term relief. They usually limit people to a two-week stay in hotels the foundation pays for.

The goal is that people who use the short-term program can then be referred to a more stable setting.

But Bob Prentice of Health Care for the Homeless Project said, "This is the myth that pervades the city's whole homeless program. You've got transitional housing and the question is—transition to what? Where's the permanent housing?"

There are also differences of opinion about the type of permanent housing that should be developed.

Some say the concept of the Folsom St. Hotel, which is a single-use site reserved for people with AIDS or ARC, is flawed. Hank Wilson, an independent hotel operator who has housed people with AIDS at his own expense, called the Folsom "a ghetto" that does not provide stability to its clients.

Wilson said the city needs to institute a long-term strategy of

cluster housing that integrates people with AIDS into other buildings. He said experience in his building shows that neighbors can become protective and supportive of people with AIDS, assisting with chores such as laundry and shopping.

Aggravating the controversy between advocates of clustered housing and those who sponsor single-use sites is funding. The city currently only offers program aid to single-use sites.

Prentice said both options are valid and should be developed. "The issue is not one or the other, but both."

Kevin Gogin, who oversees the CSS program, agreed and noted not everyone wants to be part of a single-use program. He said a city program must recognize that many homeless want to live independently without interacting with an on-site counselor.

WHO'S IN CHARGE

The city is edging toward a stance of placing AIDS homeless programs under the jurisdiction of the health department. To people like Harvey Malin, an organizer of the AIDS/ARC Vigil, "housing is a health issue."

Peters added, "I think from an administrative, bureaucratic point of view, the more we can have one seat of responsibility the better. Home health care is part of the range of services."

But some on the Health Commission are uneasy about the new venture. Both Richard Sanchez and Naomi Gray expressed reser-

vations about the health department getting into housing.

After months of dispute with the Department of Social Services over the parameters of a housing program, health officials seem ready to take over the program entirely—if the city gives them enough money to run it.

And Enisman said she would be happy to surrender the AIDS component of the homeless program.

Jeff Amory, of the city AIDS office, who is directing the housing plan requested by the Health Commission, said the jurisdictional debate is one of the policy questions yet to be resolved. He

THE HOMELESS:

Demand Gets Bigger —Wait Gets Longer

by Tim Taylor

The system of community-sponsored permanent and emergency housing programs is overburdened by a demand that is growing dramatically.

Catholic Social Services is under contract to provide between 30 and 40 units of housing to homeless people with AIDS or ARC at the Folsom Street Hotel.

The Shanti Project operates a residential program in 12 houses for 47 people.

There are 15 people on the current waiting list to get into a Shanti residence and the average wait is five weeks, although some people can wait as long as two months.

People who need immediate housing and who cannot get into either Folsom or Shanti fall into the emergency housing system.

A program run by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is running over budget.

Debra Connors said 27 people took advantage of a program developed by the foundation, which pays for hotel rooms for an average of two weeks. Already, the foundation has exhausted a third of its annual budget for a fiscal year which started last July. If demand continues to mount it is possible the foundation may have

to cut back on the time allowed in the project.

Some foundation clients are referred to permanent housing when it is available, but many others wind up moving from its programs back into the city's shelter program.

The foundation also operates a roommate referral program, matching clients with a list of people who offer to make space available in their homes. But often the rents are higher than foundation clients can afford.

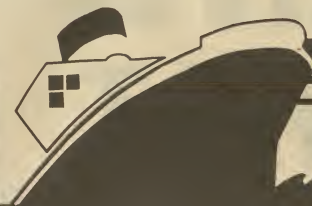
And Connors notes that where once there were three apartments for every client looking for a room, today there are five clients for every available space.

Those hardest hit by the lack of affordable, permanent housing are active substance abusers and those suffering from dementia. Elle Cousineau of Shanti notes that most residential programs cannot accommodate substance abusers, although some wind up at Folsom. And frequently those with dementia fall through the cracks of the system, she said. ●

said "Where does the health responsibility start and the housing responsibility end?"

When the Health Commission meets in January, it will pose that question to the new Mayor. ●

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RSVP

Resident

(Continued from page 1)

Ellie Cousineau, director of the Shanti Residence Program, said that it had been reported that Berry became upset because he thought his wallet and keys were missing. "He thought they had been stolen," Cousineau said.

She added that Berry had been showing psychological progress recently. "He had been with it, very coherent in recent weeks," she said, "but this incident apparently upset him. This happens often to people with AIDS-dementia."

Martin said Berry's car keys were found later on the roof of his car. Identification was found on Berry's body.

Weber said one of the reasons

for the delay in the autopsy report being made public was that microscopic and toxicology studies were being made. Martin added that, "We're just not sure if he overdosed on Valium or what."

According to Cousineau, the fact that Berry was able to wander away from his residence points out an inadequate support system in the city for people with AIDS-dementia. "There is a desperate need for what we have to offer," said Cousineau, referring to the Shanti Project housing system, "but the city still does not have an adequate situation for people with AIDS-dementia."

She added that because housing managers cannot be present all of the time, housemates often look after one another. But, she added, "We don't consider the roommates to be responsible" for looking after other roommates. ●

Clipping Visa: A Protest Takes Shape

In August, San Francisco-based Visa U.S.A. announced through a series of magazine ads, that "Whenever you use Visa, we'll contribute to the 1988 U.S. Olympic Team." Among the many Visa cardholders to take offense at this was Boston gay publisher Sasha Alyson, who initiated a "Clip Your Visa" campaign.

Q Some readers probably don't understand your anger at the U.S. Olympic Committee. Can you explain?

A In 1982, the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) sued the Gay Olympics, on the grounds that Congress had granted the USOC exclusive rights to use the word "Olympics." Dozens of other organizations had used the word—including the Special Olympics, the K-9 Olympics, the Rat Olympics and the Eskimo Olympics. The Olympic Committee had not stopped them, yet it viciously went after the Gay Olympics.

Q What do you mean, "viciously"?

A The Gay Olympics, now called the Gay Games, were founded by Dr. Tom Waddell, who himself had been an Olympic athlete: He placed sixth in the decathlon in the 1968 Olympic Games. The Olympic Committee, in pressing its recent suit, filed against him personally as well as against the Gay Games. They even went so far as to put a lien on his home, to recoup their court costs if they ultimately won.

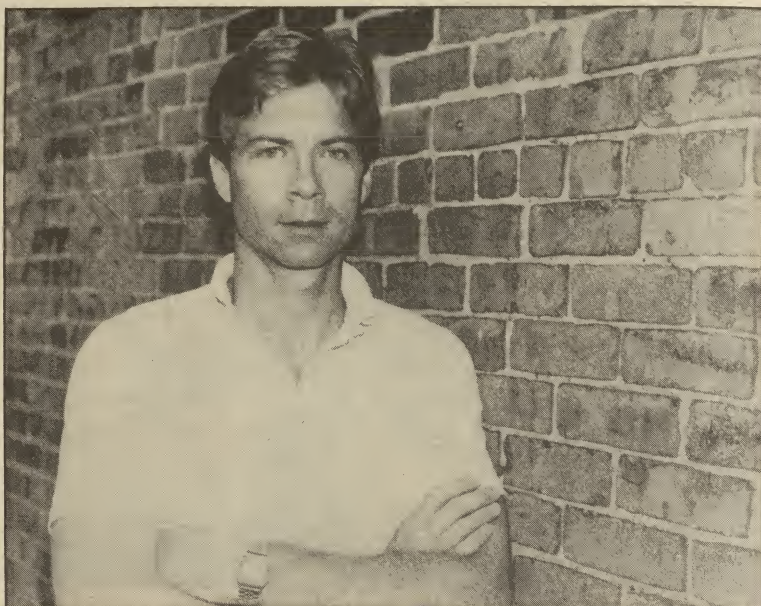
Q Did they win?

A Yes. This past summer, in a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court ruled against Waddell and the Gay Games. It was a highly controversial case. A number of First Amendment experts felt that a law giving a private organization such proprietary rights to a word was unconstitutional.

Q Where does Visa enter into this?

A Visa is one of several large corporate sponsors of the Olympics. When I learned that I had triggered a donation to the U.S. Olympics by using my Visa card, it made me so mad I decided it was time to protest. I wrote a letter to a number of gay papers, explaining the situation, suggesting that readers cut their cards in half, sending half to Visa with a note of explanation cancelling their account, and the other half to me. I'm going to use them to create a memorial to Tom Waddell, who died just a few weeks after the Supreme Court ruling.

Q Are you getting enough cards to make an impact on Visa?



Sasha Alyson is coordinating a nationwide protest against Visa's support of the U.S. Olympic Committee (Photo: R. Proulx)

A At this point, they probably aren't feeling a direct financial impact. But that could change as more cards come in. Remember, a single card can account for thousands of dollars in purchases in a given year. The real impact is in public relations. I'd estimate that around 100,000 to 150,000 gay people have now read about Visa's support of an anti-gay organization. Not all of them are going to cancel their cards right now, but when renewal time comes up, or when they decide to get a new credit card and have to choose between

Visa, Mastercard, Optima and Discover, I doubt very many will choose Visa.

Q Have you had any contact with Visa about all this?

A When I sent back my card, I got a letter from their Public Relations director. He explained that they were supporting the Olympics because "no other program has done more to help promote cooperation and understanding on a worldwide basis." Honest. That's what he said. I phoned, and asked if Visa would be supporting the Olympic Committee had they singled out a group called the Black Olympics for special harassment. He said that was a hypothetical situation and he preferred not to speculate about hypothetical situations.

Q Isn't it interesting how changing the word "gay" to "black" puts a whole new perspective on this. Many people would say you're making too big a deal out of this—yet they wouldn't say that, as you point out, if racism instead of homophobia were involved.

A Exactly. I've also been told that this will hurt the U.S. athletes on the team. My response is I'm all in favor of supporting amateur athletics—but not if it means also supporting homophobia.

Q For readers who agree with you, where should they send their clipped Visa cards?

A I'm suggesting they send half their card to Jan Soderstrom, Visa Marketing Department, P.O. Box 8999, San Francisco, California, 94128, with a letter explaining why you're cancelling your account. Send a copy of that letter, with your account number, to the bank where you got the card. Then send the other half to me: Sasha Alyson, c/o Alyson Publications, 40 Plympton St., Boston, Mass. 02118. You may want to ask at the bank where you had your Visa account if they can issue a Mastercard instead.

Q How long will this go on?

A Visa is contributing to the Olympics at least through September, 1988. Unless they show a willingness to

negotiate, I intend to keep up this campaign right through then. Beyond that point, I think they owe the lesbian and gay community an apology, and as long as they consider homophobia to be a trivial issue, there's no room in my wallet for a Visa card.

Q What do you mean by "negotiate"?

A Visa is based in San Francisco, where the lawsuit against Tom Waddell and the Gay Games got a lot of publicity. Visa officials should have known about it. But let's be charitable and assume they didn't. If they would make a reasonable contribution to the Gay Games, another to AIDS work, and a public statement that they would not commit further donations to the U.S. Olympics Committee as long as it pursues these anti-gay policies, then I'd have no further quarrel with Visa.

Q Do you think Visa is likely to do all that?

A Perhaps not right now. But every time somebody clips their Visa card in half, and registers their dissatisfaction with Visa, it becomes a little more likely. ●

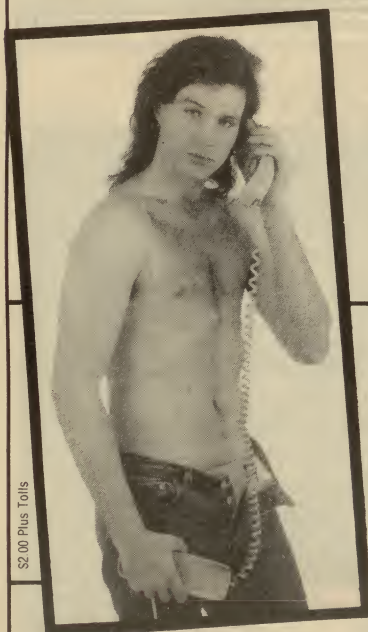
NGLTF Releases Political Action Packets

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force announces the release of political action packets to inform, inflame and inspire gay and lesbian activists and organizers working on the state level.

Focused on five central issues—sodomy laws, AIDS, family issues, hate crimes and civil rights protection—the packets include fact sheets on legislative campaigns within the past year. Also included are resource materials to help activists develop effective statewide action networks and information on NGLTF organizing projects which deal with sodomy laws and hate crimes.

The packets are a part of NGLTF's ongoing State Action Lobby, whose aims are to press the gay/lesbian agenda at the state level. Packets may be obtained by writing the NGLTF State Action Lobby, 1517 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009. ●

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Group To Distribute Xmas Wreaths To PWAs

Christmas is a time for caring and the AIDS Support Group of Most Holy Redeemer parish has devised a special effort to bring something of the holidays to shut-ins. The group plans to distribute at least 300 Christmas wreaths along with homemade goodies to people in area hospitals and at home.

The Christmas packages are to contain a bottle of Coca Cola, candies, cookies, fruit and a small gift. The wreaths will be evergreens.

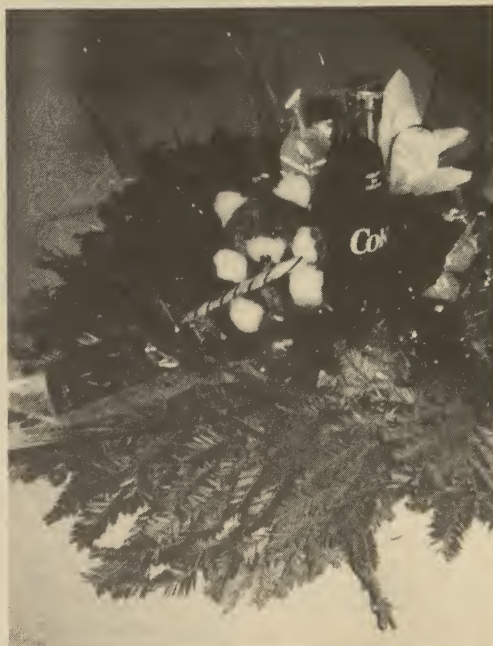
Recipients will be Support Group clients, residents of Coming Home Hospice, Shanti homes, and Kaiser, San Francisco General, and Garden Sullivan hospitals.

The Most Holy Redeemer Support Group is an organization of gay and lesbian Catholics who care for 90 persons with AIDS. They provide practical support such as house cleaning, dog walking, and transportation.

A blessing of the wreaths is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 5:45 p.m. at Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., San Francisco.

Volunteers are needed to assemble the wreaths and the gifts and to distribute them during the holidays. Donations of gifts and money are also being sought.

For more information, call Trey O'Regan at 864-2202 or Thomas McCormick at 752-9292.



Vintage Cars Displayed At Freewheelers' Concours

More than 100 classic and vintage cars are expected to be entered in the Freewheelers Car Club's Fourth Annual Concours d'Elegance. The club is the nation's oldest gay collector car organization. The gala show will be held on Saturday, Nov. 21, in Fiesta Hall at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds in San Mateo, 12 noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to Project Open Hand, an AIDS support organization.

In addition to the vintage autos, the Concours will have a display of automobile memorabilia—model cars, vintage auto literature, sales promotion materials and other items related to car collecting.

The Freewheelers Car Club was founded in 1977 and since then has grown to 175 members who come from throughout the Northern California area. A club tour is held each month.

Information about the Concours or joining the Freewheelers may be obtained by calling (415) 386-6753 or (415) 332-1956.

Boxer Denounces Feds On Lack Of Education

Calls For End To 'Ideological Squabbling'

Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) has labelled the Reagan Administration's inaction on the AIDS education front "the deepest tragedy of all." She called on the Administration to set aside paralyzing ideological squabbling so that Americans can get urgently needed AIDS education.

Boxer, chair of the House Budget Committee Task Force on AIDS, made her comments at a Task Force hearing on AIDS education and education funding. She also said she will soon send a letter to Dr. Walter Dowdee, deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control, including scientific questions about the Administration's use of funds Congress has appropriated for AIDS education.

Rep. Boxer opened the hearing saying, "There is no doubt that AIDS poses the most serious threat to the future well-being of our nation. It is truly a national emergency. But the deepest tragedy of all, in my opinion, is this Administration's inaction on the education front—we are six years into this crisis and have yet to see a massive, well-coordinated nationwide education program. We've had plenty of lip service. I sat here four years ago when Mrs. Heckler said AIDS was our number one health priority."

"Quite frankly, I do not understand why this President—who has lobbied tirelessly for many causes dear to his heart cannot find the time to appear on prime time TV for five minutes to tell Americans how to save their lives. Education is the only vaccine," said Boxer.

"We know education works," she said, "It has worked in the gay community which has organized and educated its members. I hope that we can learn more to spur us on immediately to teach the facts and save thousands of lives."



Barbara Boxer

HRCF Launches Ad Education

The Human Rights Campaign Fund is placing full page ads in major newspapers across the country to draw attention to limits Congress is placing on AIDS prevention education programs in 1988.

Both houses of Congress approved an amendment by Sen. Jesse Helms to the 1988 Health and Human Services Appropriation. The amendment orders the federal government not to pay for AIDS prevention education programs that discuss sex outside of monogamous marriage, and for-

bids the frank and open discussions about sex and drugs essential to effective AIDS prevention.

Specifically, the amendment strips funds that "promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual sexual activities." A literal reading of the Helms Amendment could prohibit distribution of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, since the report explicitly discusses means to prevent sexual transmission of the disease.

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DEATHS

David Lee Williams

Born in Raymondville, Texas, David attended Stanford University, receiving an MA degree in music composition in 1961. Until 1984, David lived in the Bay Area teaching, composing, and performing. He worked as a pianist and in theatre in San Francisco as a conductor and musical director. In recent years David dedicated himself to composition, his greatest love. In addition to theatre pieces, songs, and three lovely hymns, David wrote the ballet *Circulus* presented by the Pacific Ballet, and at the time of his death had just completed a concerto for piano and orchestra.



David died Oct. 31 in New York City.

David was a strong, tall Texan, brimming with energy and enthusiasm, and he brightened the lives of all who knew him. He cared deeply for his friends, and we have all enjoyed the generosity of his spirit and his endless kindnesses. He had an extraordinary talent, and the music he gave to us will never die in our memories.

A service will be held at Memorial Church, Stanford, on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 3:30 p.m. to honor and celebrate David's life. Some of his favorite music will be performed by his friends and colleagues. We will be joined by David's sister, Annie Lou Grimes, who lovingly cared for David in his final illness. All who knew David are invited to attend.

Jesse Anthony Maldonado

On Oct. 23, at 0030 hours, Sgt. Jesse Anthony Maldonado, 28, passed on to join other friends in a new life within the eternal light.

Bor Nov. 18, 1958, he was raised in Los Angeles. At the age of 18 he joined the U.S. Army.

During his 18 weeks of battling AIDS, Jesse won his greatest victories. Among the physicians on staff at Letterman Army Hospital his courage, optimism and vitality amazed all. Among other patients he was caring and supportive of them, loving unconditionally.

At the time of his passing he was surrounded and cared for by his longtime friend and companion Rocco Brateman; his friend Hanalei Ofalia; parents, wife, brothers and sisters and his special family and all who were a part of 10 East Letterman Army Hospital.

Jesse was laid to rest with full military honors on Oct. 30 at Oakdale Cemetery in Glendora, CA.

He specifically requested any contributions be made in his memory to the AIDS Mastory: Northern Lights, 449 Dellbrook Ave., San Francisco, CA 94131.

Larry Russell

Larry Russell died Oct. 25, at the age of 47 after a long battle with the AIDS related illness, toxoplasmosis. Larry was a tall, considerate, spiritual, gentle, sweet, kind, independent, practical, loving, giving, positive, wise man. He had a great love of his ranch on Horse Mountain in Humboldt County and was very close to his daughter, Angel.

Larry resisted going to the hospital until the very last, and mercifully only spent one day there. He died quickly and quietly surrounded by his immediate family, and greatly touched the lives of his caregivers of the past year, Ray, Ward and Jim.

John J. Pasquale

John died Sept. 23 at Children's Hospital, surrounded by family and friends. He was 42 years old and taught for several years in the city. He was buried in his hometown of West Boylston, Mass. on a beautiful fall day which befitted the sad but peaceful occasion.

Anyone who knew John was impressed with his wry perception of life. I can see him now, cigarette in hand, Bette Davis-style, on a stool at the "P," his favorite bar, complaining about life in general, his own in particular, and loving every minute of it.

We shall miss you, John.

Robert A. Mariotti

Robert August Mariotti died peacefully at home in San Francisco Nov. 1. He was 45.

At age seven, Master Mariotti was discovered in a drugstore by Gertrude Cohen, a talent scout. Placed under the aegis of Helen Hayes, he was chosen as understudy to Brandon de Wilde in *Member of the Wedding*. He played the role of John Henry on tour throughout the U.S., opposite Ethel Waters and Betty Lou Holland, to high praise and sold-out performances.

He went on to take over Brandon de Wilde's part opposite Helen Hayes in *Mrs. McThing*. He also starred with Roy Campanella, Ruth Warrick and his own mother in the baseball fantasy movie *Roogie's Bump*. Invariably, critics and interviewers extolled his considerable charm, deft humor and precocious poise.

At 19, he retired from the theatre in Oct. 1961. He went to Harvard on a scholarship, graduating Class of 1965 with a degree in American history. After a year travelling in India, he sailed in the Merchant Marine and tried advertising and then social psychology. He opened a successful agency as an executive recruiter in the insurance field.

A year before his own illness was diagnosed, Mariotti volunteered as an AIDS counselor, working for the AIDS Foundation of San Francisco, participating in several ARC groups, and giving himself over to several drug tests to help others. He was diagnosed with ARC in June 1985. At the outset of his illness he used his talent as a signer at Grace Cathedral during the Metaphysical Society services, interpreting for AIDS patients, their families, lovers and friends.

Till the very end his charm, humor and poise remained.

Mariotti is survived by his mother Teresa, his father Mario, his sister Julie and brother William.

Robert was born in Bridgeport, Conn. on Aug. 31, 1942.

For further information, in San Francisco write Paul Darian, 516 O'Farrell St., #603, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Robin J. (Rob) Kimbel

Rob died in San Jose, Oct. 31. He was born May 20, 1957. Beloved friend of Rosa Ancheta, passed away peacefully in his sleep. Rob's great love was music. He was considered one of San Francisco's best D.J.'s, having played at the city's biggest clubs: L-Beam, Trocadero, En-



dup. His family and friends will remember him with only fondest memories.

For further information contact Rosa at 621-5767 or Kurt Lawson at 621-6644, for a celebration of his life.

Martin Weber

Generous spirit. Compassionate son. Sweet, sweet body. As brother-teacher, you dwell among us: a stubborn soul of light. As lover-healer, you entered our pain: a simple child of God. Your destiny, your dreams—they resound, reverberate. Your eyes, your smile—they linger.

Please, gentle man, take our hands, look into our eyes, and once again, embrace us. You entered death the way we would, in all honesty, enter each of our days: with eyes ablaze, heart ecstatically open, and your soul reeling with images of unnameable, ravishing splendor.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while—leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same again. God bless your footsteps, Ducky.

Love and light.

Contributions in Martin's name can be made to: AIDS Rest Stop c/o Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church. For information regarding services: call 861-6182.

Lee Roy Boone

Lee Roy Boone died peacefully at his home Nov. 1, in San Francisco. He was born in South Carolina 47 years ago. Lee joined the Air Force, serving in Europe as an interpreter. He was a graduate of U.C. Berkeley where he majored in Slavic languages.

Lee was an avid art collector and a published photographer. He owned and operated the Henry Street Galleries. For twenty years Lee was a flight service manager and a purser for TWA. Lee also was the grievance administrator for the flight attendant union.

Throughout Lee's illness he was surrounded by many friends, family and loved ones. A special thank you to the expert and loving staff of Kaiser Hospital and to Ian Robertson, a Hospice worker, who facilitated a loving and peaceful transition for Lee.

Lee's request was to be cremated and his ashes scattered on Mt. Tamalpais. Donations may be made in Lee's name to the AIDS Emergency Fund, 1550 California St., Suite 3R, San Francisco, CA 94109. For further information, call 626-2332.

Obituary Policy

Due to an unfortunately large number of obituaries, Bay Area Reporter has been forced to change its obituary policy.

We must now restrict obits to 200 words. And please, no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity and taste.

Bereavement Support For Seniors

You need not be alone in your grief. Our volunteers are men who have experienced the death of a lover in the past. On a one-to-one basis, they offer emotional support as well as practical assistance to gay men who are grieving the recent death of a lover or close friend.

For further information, call George at 626-7000—Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders).

UCSF Symposia On Research, Services

The Gay Men's Support Group at UCSF is sponsoring a three-part AIDS symposia on three separate days. All sessions will be held in Cole Hall and are free to the public. The first session will

be on Monday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 p.m. The topic will be AIDS research and three speakers will give 20 minute talks and will be available to answer questions. Be prepared to have your basic questions answered about human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and how this affects the immune system.

The second symposium will be held Tuesday, Nov. 17, from noon-1 p.m. This session will focus on the clinical services that UCSF offers people with AIDS/ARC.

The third talk will be on Thursday, Nov. 19, from noon-1 p.m. and will focus on community support networks.

18th Street Offers New Support Group

18th Street Services, the non-profit substance abuse counseling program for gay men, an-

nounces a new support group for men with AIDS, ARC or who have tested HIV positive and who also have a drug or alcohol problem. The group will also be open to friends and lovers of men dealing with these issues, as well as to anyone in recovery from alcoholism or drug addiction who has concerns around AIDS.

The group will meet every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 18th Street Services, 2152B Market Street (between Church and Sanchez). No appointment is necessary for attendance at these group meetings, and there will be no charge for attendance.

This new Saturday group replaces the Wednesday night AIDS/ARC counseling group previously offered at 18th Street Services.

For more information about this free support group, call 861-4898.



The Unkindest Cut

Last year, Rec and Park planners said cutting was done at Buena Vista Park until new planting was begun. So far, there has been no new planting — but in that past month, extensive new clear-cutting has taken place. Maybe it is just coincidence that all the areas being affected are areas frequented — at least in the past — by gay people. And maybe it is just coincidence that the timing coincides with the twilight of the Feinstein Administration.

(Photo: R. Pruzan)

NY Hospital Charged On AIDS Bias

In precedent-setting ruling, the New York State Division of Human Rights has found probable cause that the Westchester County Medical Center discriminated against a pharmacist by refusing to honor its commitment to hire him when it learned he had tested positive to antibodies to HIV, the virus believed to cause AIDS.

The agency's determination represents the first instance in which a New York State agency has ruled against the employer on the ground that discrimination based on seropositivity violates the state's Human Rights Law.

The Human Rights Division determined in an Oct. 23 ruling, that the evidence supported the charges of discrimination brought by "John Doe," the pharmacist who had been offered employment at the hospital. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund represented Doe before the agency. Ironically, the hospital is seeking certification from the state as a regional facility for AIDS patients.

In 1985, Doe voluntarily submitted to an HIV antibody test at the infectious disease clinic of the hospital, with the express understanding that the results would be kept confidential. In 1986, after he had already been offered the pharmacist position, the offer was withdrawn when a doctor at the hospital who obtained Doe's confidential medical records at the infectious disease clinic revealed the results of his positive HIV test to hospital administrators.

At no time did Doe consent to the release of the test results.

In its opinion, the State Human Rights Division relied on expert testimony from Dr. Harold Jaffee, chief of epidemiology for the AIDS program at the federal Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. Dr. Jaffee had asserted that there was virtually no risk of HIV transmission from an HIV-positive pharmacist to any individual as a result of on-the-job duties.

The Human Rights Division then found out that the hospital's "unsubstantiated theories about risks of HIV transmission cannot shelter them from the requirement of non-discrimination in employment based on disability" as required by New York law.

The Human Rights Division also criticized the laxness of the hospital in maintaining its medical records. According to the Division, the hospital had maintained Doe's confidential records in a manner that permitted them to be released to a third party, and to be used to violate state law. The agency determined that

maintaining "confidential medical records and not releasing such records without consent is a term, condition and privilege of public accommodation."

"This ought to send a clear message to employers in the state that discrimination based on seropositivity will simply not be tolerated under the New York State Human Rights Law," said Mark Barnes, Lambda cooperating attorney who represented Doe. He was assisted in the case by William Flanagan, also a Columbia University School of Law faculty member.

Said Lambda's legal director Abby R. Rubinfeld, "This decision is another important link in the consistent line of state and federal authority from all around the country holding that discrimination based on antibody status, as well as that based on AIDS itself, is illegal."

Man Awarded Custody Of Lover's Son

Judge Says Christian Mom Can't Provide 'Wholesome' Home

A San Diego judge has awarded permanent custody of Brian Batey, 16, to his late father's lover, Craig Corbett. Superior Court Judge Judith McConnell said that the boy's Christian fundamentalist mother, Betty Lou Batey, could not provide the "stable and wholesome environment" for the boy that Corbett could.

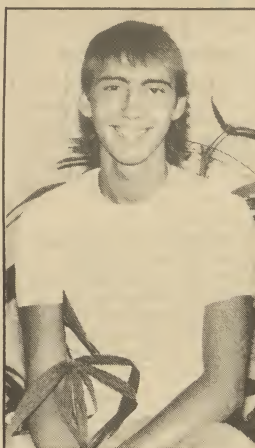
Judge McConnell said that extensive investigation by county officials had concluded that Mrs. Batey had "willfully deprived" Brian of schooling. McConnell also noted that Brian had said he wanted to stay with Corbett and that she had to give "great weight" to the youth's request.

The custody battle for Brian has been raging for five years. The boy's father Frank Batey had fought to keep his son after he separated from his former wife.

In 1982, Betty Lou Batey made national headlines when she kidnapped Brian, then 11 years old, and hid him for over a year.

She surrendered to federal officials in Denver in 1984 and was charged with child stealing. She was acquitted of these charges this May.

After placement in a foster care home, a court awarded Frank Batey custody. He died of AIDS in June of this year. That set off a new round in the custody battle.



Brian Batey

Betty Lou Batey told reporters outside the San Diego courtroom that she would fight for custody of her son no longer. She accused Judge McConnell of being biased in the case because the judge has made feminist statements in the past.

No provision for visitation rights was made in McConnell's order. But Corbett said he has no objection to the mother visiting her son at any time. The two live in Palm Springs.

**Fight Back Armed With the Facts.
Stay Informed with the B.A.R.**

An Urgent Appeal from Shanti Project

With more than three new cases being diagnosed in San Francisco each day, Shanti Project is in critical need of volunteers to provide emotional support to persons with AIDS and their loved ones.

Currently, all of our 500 volunteers are at near full capacity. In order to avoid a waiting list for the people we

Volunteers Needed

The next Emotional Support Training will begin the weekend of December 4th and continue on December 11th.

An additional Training will be held the weekends of February 5th and 12th.

A Practical Support Training is the weekend of January 15th.

To Volunteer, please call Shanti Project at 777-CARE.

serve, we need a minimum of 70 new volunteers for each training.

One way to show that you care about what is happening in our community is to volunteer a few hours of your time each week at Shanti Project.



**SHANTI
PROJECT**

1969 AIDS Case Found — Teenager in St. Louis

A 15-year-old St. Louis boy died of AIDS in 1969, researchers at Tulane University said last week in a report in The New York Times. The findings refute the commonly held belief that the AIDS virus first appeared in the United States in the mid- or late 1970s.

The teenager, identified as Robert R., died in 1969 of an illness which baffled his doctors at Washington University in St. Louis. The boy had a lesion of a then-rare skin cancer, Kaposi's sarcoma. Because of the unusual nature of the case, doctors saved tissue samples after Robert R.'s death.

In 1984, Washington University

doctors suggested that Robert R.'s symptoms, unexplainable in 1969, fit the classic profile for AIDS. But it was not until this year that the hypothesis was confirmed.

Molecular biologists at Tulane University in New Orleans examined stored tissue samples from Robert R.'s body and found that the AIDS virus was present.

Audrey Isn't Rich

But She Gives Her All—Money, Time and Goods

by Dell Richards

Audrey Mertz, 59, doesn't see herself as 'Lady Bountiful' nor does she live by the code of *noblesse oblige*. But she does believe in doing her part. Without making a lot of fuss, she gives 5 percent of her income to charity each year. Thanks to her, more than 50 gay and feminist organizations in her hometown of Sacramento had more money to keep them going last year.

By most standards, Mertz isn't a rich woman. She's not a John D. Rockefeller or an Armand Hammer. A psychiatrist who has worked for state hospitals and mental health agencies most of her life, she earns slightly more than \$50,000 a year.

Although that is a comfortable income by most standards, she also helps support a college-age child on the money. But she also knows the importance of having alternative services available to everyone, especially those who cannot afford them.

"Since I work in government, I know how slowly those organizations work," Mertz said. "They have their merits in terms of lobbying and education, but to be able to just do something quickly, by your own efforts and your own fundraising is often what's needed."

Mertz finds much of her strength in the gay and lesbian community. She knows how valuable it is because she's had to live without it.

In 1969, after having been married 18 years, she got involved with another woman. She always had been drawn to women but until that fateful year, she'd never had the courage to test her true feelings.

When she told her husband, he reacted with rage, wanting the financial booty from the marriage and demanding the whole store—the house, the assets, the five children and child support. Although she fought, less than a month later she fled her home in Hawaii to take a job in rural Alaska. There, she found herself completely alone for the first time in almost 20 years.

"I got a going-away gift—a set of matched luggage—and I left with all my worldly goods in this set of matched luggage," she said, her voice choking between tears and laughter as she recalls one of the harshest periods in her life. "It was so sad. I was at bottom, rock bottom."

Although she was thousands of miles away from the hostilities, the fear of her husband cutting off visitation rights and blocking her from ever seeing her children again made her quiver in the closet. Being in a new job in a strange place made matters worse.

"There was no way I could let anybody know what I had been through," Mertz said. "I couldn't even let them know I had to leave my children, much less that I was gay."

"I was so afraid of making a

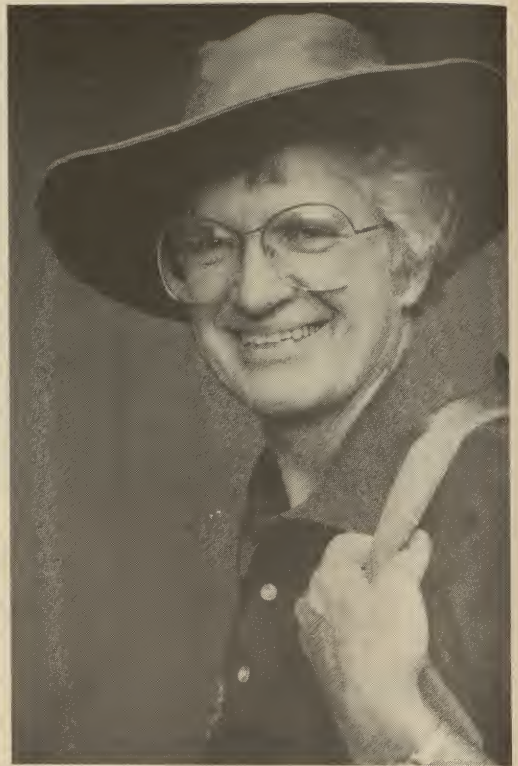
false move," Mertz said. "It was the first time they'd ever had a psychiatrist living in this tiny town of 5,000 people. 'I had no lesbian friends, no support system whatsoever. I was very depressed.'"

Mertz eventually found someone to lean on—another woman who also had lived in Hawaii. And her husband never made good on his threats of barring her from her children.

But as a result of that traumatic experience, Mertz began to give to gay and feminist charities on a regular basis. By doing so, she hopes other women will be able to avoid the kind of pain she'd been through.

Money isn't all Mertz gives. She also gives another one percent—or more—in goods. This year, local organizations also received art for walls, books for libraries and prizes for raffles.

"I especially enjoy giving art work," Mertz said. "I buy art work to support the artist—especially lesbians—and I've done that with photographs, paintings and sculpture. I enjoy it myself for awhile and then give it to organizations so other people can see it and the artist gets publicity."



Audrey Mertz

(Photo: T. Corinne)

Being a career woman, she works more than a 40-hour week. But Mertz also gives freely of her time. In the 10 years since she came to Sacramento, she's helped found numerous feminist and gay organizations—including a women's health clinic, a children's sexual abuse treatment

program and a legal services arm of the National Organization for Women (NOW). As a board member, she's also allowed organizations to use her name and professional contacts.

She does it because it's needed. Without her—or someone like her—the organizations

(Continued on next page)

Charities' Hard Times —Donors' Hard Choices

Fighting for Gay Rights Is Costly

by Dell Richards

Thanks to Reaganomics, nonprofit organizations face an uphill battle. Although the need for social services has increased steadily, the government has quit blithely picking up the tab. That leaves the private sector—you and me—to make up the difference.

Non-profit organizations also are being pinched by the 1986 Federal Tax Reform Act. If you don't itemize, charitable donations are no longer deductible. If you are a true philanthropist and give a lot, the deduction is reduced.

With both the government and the public giving less, nonprofit organizations will find it even harder to survive. Many may not survive.

The national trend is even more pronounced in the gay and lesbian community. Although no one knows how much money gay and lesbian nonprofit organizations take in annually, there are almost 2,500 organizations nationwide which will be affected.

For example, the Sacramento AIDS Foundation (SAF) serves hundreds of clients a year, gives counseling to another thousand and provides AIDS educational information to almost ten thousand. To do this, it needs ten full-time employees, six part-timers, two unpaid interns and 170 volunteers.

The cost: \$600,000 per year.

Although that may seem like a bank full, it's only a drop in the bucket. United Way estimates

that over \$87 billion was given to almost 900,000 tax exempt organizations across the U.S. in 1986.

But those amounts are peanuts compared to the real pros—television evangelists. Before their fall, Jim and Tammy Bakker pulled in over \$100 million in 1986 alone. And they were only one of six major TV evangelists.

With the money TV preachers get, they are changing the course of history. If nothing else, they are slowing down progress—and people are suffering as a result of it.

Whether the effects are felt immediately or not, the fact that many gay men and lesbians don't think they can afford to give money hurts the community.

Let's face it. Most of us aren't rich. And no matter how much anyone earns, it never seems to be enough. The United Way offers this tip: Give one hour of your salary a week. It won't hurt at the time but it will make a difference over a year. Or if you already give to an organization like the United Way, ask that your donation go to a designated organization—like an AIDS foundation.

Providing services and fighting for rights costs money. ●

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If you know someone who has ARC. . .

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Lesbian Conference Set In S.F. This Weekend

Up to 500 Bay Area participants are expected for a two-day conference this weekend highlighting lesbian issues and developing political strategies to make lesbians more prominent in the local political and cultural scene.

The conference is sponsored by the newly-formed Lesbian Agenda for Action, and will be held Sat., Nov. 14 and Sun., Nov. 15.

Barbara Cameron and Roma Guy, co-chairs of the conference, said in a program letter, "The National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights was a mammoth outpouring; the time is ripe for a political organization with lesbian rights and issues at its forefront." According to Guy and Cameron, the conference will help set the stage for a permanent lesbian presence in San Francisco.

Keynote speakers at the conference are Donna Hitchens, speaking on Saturday about discrimination issues, and Pat Norman, speaking on Sunday about political and grass-roots organizing. Sally Miller Gearhart, feminist author and teacher, will be mistress of ceremonies for the events.



Donna Hitchens (Photo: Rink)



Roma Guy (Photo: Rink)

Workshops with lesbian facilitators will also be conducted in subject areas such as discrimination, health care, pay equity, domestic partners, violence issues, reproductive rights, the politics of AIDS, children and parenting, sexual stratification, and aging.

Registration starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday. The Conference opens at 9:30 a.m. and activities continue until 6 p.m.

Activities on Sunday start at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 p.m.

All events are planned for Mission High School, 3750 18th Street, between Church and Dolores.

Registration is \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. No one will be turned away because of lack of funds.

Child care is available through advance registration. For additional information call 552-5677.

News — Opinion — Entertainment All in Bay Area Reporter.

Audrey

(Continued from previous page)

might not survive.

"None of these organizations ever have much money to work with," Mertz said. "They're always struggling and struggling and struggling. Someone has to help."

From her years as a psychiatrist and a public health worker, Mertz saw firsthand the effects of poverty and alienation. But, the dire need for services wasn't brought home until she became the president of the local chapter of NOW.

"As president, I knew how many inquiries came into NOW from women with no money," she said. "They have legal problems and want NOW to help solve them or tell them how to get help when they're getting abuse from their husbands or having financial problems. Those are the typical problems that women go to feminist organizations for—to help them fight for their rights."

Giving time and money is a response that also stems from her upbringing in Pittsburgh, where her father was a union organizer — albeit a classical cellist in the musician's union. Her parents also were staunch church-goers.

"My father was a real enterprising man who encouraged the education of his children and community involvement," she said. To Mertz and her two brothers, giving isn't a duty or a chore. It's part of the way they find meaning in life.

Recently, Mertz combined a love of travel with an interest in the environment by spending a month on the East Indian island of Borneo as a volunteer for the Orangutan Project.

"I learned so much while there," she said. "I had the privilege of observing infant-mother interaction in three pairs of orangutans. I got up at dawn and reported on their activities each day. It was one of the most exciting times of my life."

Mertz sees charity as an investment in her vision of the future — one that includes a healthy environment as well as the freedom to be a lesbian.

What/When/Where/Why/Who/What/When/Where

GLOE Seeks Friends For Seniors

Operation Concern's GLOE (Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders) seeks friends to visit isolated Gay and Lesbian Seniors. A growing number of seniors are cut off from the gay community through failing health and loss of lovers and friends. GLOE works to connect homebound seniors with those

who want the satisfaction of meaningful work helping seniors help themselves and battle isolation.

One friendly visitor says, "It was a great personal growth experience for me. It broadened my view of the aging process and increased my friendship network through all the generations."

GLOE's Friendly Visitors go to visit seniors, talk to them, read to them, and if they're able take them for walks or to the store. Bill Hanson calls them "the small but precious things you would do for a longtime friend."

Be a friend; call George or Elaine at 626-7000.

Carry Forth The Spirit

In an effort to keep alive the inspiration and energy of the March on Washington, Marcia Quackenbush and Lanz Lowen will co-facilitate a workshop entitled Carrying Forth the Spirit of the March. The half-day workshop will bring together lesbians and gay men who attended the March and those who supported the March at home.

The workshop is an attempt to harness the tremendous emotional power unleashed at the March. Through visualization, discussion, and ritual, participants will explore how they can continue to live the pride and determination of the March, both individually and as a community.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, Nov. 21 from 1-5 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco. A \$10 donation is requested will all proceeds benefitting the Names Project and the UCSF AIDS Health Project. For more information or to register, call Lanz Lowen, (415) 655-7801.

Int'natl. Conf. In Amsterdam

Professionals from 30 countries gather Dec. 10-12 at the international scientific conference Homosexuality Beyond Disease in Amsterdam. More than a hundred social scientists, counselors, politicians, and lawyers will meet.

Member of European Parliament Hedy d'Ancona, Sen. David Norris from the Republic of Ireland, Greek politician Gregory Vallentatos, Gov. Mario Cuomo's liaison Virginia Apuzzo, WHO-chair Joop van Londen are just five of the many specialists.

The conference consists of three main parts. "Homosexuality and Mental Health" is a substantial overview of the state of the art in this area. "Theories of Homosexuality," current challenges to social sciences. "Politics and Law," homosexuality as a controversial issue in human rights. AIDS is an issue in all three main parts.

Three film premieres are part of the cultural festival of the conference Dec. 9-16.

For information and registration, please contact Klaas Soes-



beek, tel: +31 30 534779; address: Homostudies RUU, P.O. Box 80140, NL 3508 TC Utrecht, The Netherlands.

Enrichment Weekend For Couples

A new program for committed lesbian and gay couples, Enrichment Weekend, will be held Dec. 4 through 6, at a Bay Area retreat center. Affirmation, United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns, is conducting this program, which is co-sponsored by the United Methodist Church.

Co-leaders for the weekend are Rev. Jane Spahr, United Presbyterian minister, and Rev. Perry Wiggins, United Methodist minister. Spahr works in the New Light Ministry in Marin County. Wiggins is on special appointment in the West Hollywood area.

The registration fee is \$250 per couple, including meals, lodging and leadership. Registration is limited and will be taken on a first-come basis. For more information write to Affirmation, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Mark's Way, Sacramento, CA 95864 or phone (916) 489-2340 evenings.

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
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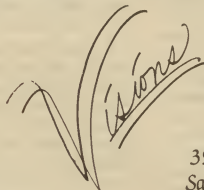


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L.A. Demo Club Calls For 1988 Sacto. March

Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles is organizing a "1988 Bring the Message Home: March on Sacramento" to be held on Sunday, May 29, Memorial Day weekend. The necessary permit requests are already moving through the various departments in Sacramento. Lobbying of legislators, a meeting with the governor and a memorial event are also planned.

"Inspired by the brilliant success of the recent March on Washington, where over 500,000 gay men, lesbians and supporters marched for our rights, Stonewall polled some of the key organizers up and down the state. At the same time Stonewall members conducted a one-on-one poll at the recent West Hollywood Street Fair. The excitement and eagerness which met Stonewall's question, 'Would you be part of a March on Sacramento in 1988?' convinced the club to move forward with their plans," said president of Stonewall, Ivy Bottini.

The list of demands in place at this time are:

- State sponsored War Against AIDS: to include more funding, research, education, mental health programs and counseling.
- Statewide nondiscrimination legislation for persons with AIDS

or ARC, or those perceived to be at risk.

- Revision of the Gann Initiative.
- Statewide legislation against crimes of hate and prejudice and a commitment to enforce them.

The March will focus attention on Gov. George Deukmejian's lack of leadership during this AIDS crisis, and his callous disregard for hundreds of thousands of gay and lesbian citizens of this state of California. Attention will be focused on his hiding behind his "blue pencil veto" style of governing, rather than taking an out-front leadership role and dealing with the issues head-on.

"The March will also bring a message to all the legislators in the capital," Bottini said. "The message will be very clear: The

anger of the gay/lesbian community has been triggered. Our movement has been a sleeping giant but it is fully awake now. Our attention is focused and we are moving as one. We will support our friends but we will go right through our enemies," she said.

"This March is putting all the legislators on notice that we will not tolerate any more excuses, foot dragging or opposition to programs or legislation that will wipe out AIDS and alleviate the physical, emotional and/or personal suffering of those with the disease or perceived to have the disease. We will no longer tolerate being hated for being alive," emphasized Bottini.

Stonewall Democratic Club of Los Angeles calls upon political and community organizations to endorse this March and to join them in its organization and execution. Individual endorsements are also sought. They intend to put together an endorsement team whose job will be to help organize in the smallest to the largest towns in California.

To endorse or get involved call (213) 483-8574. Put the March and lobbying on your calendar now for Memorial Day weekend, 1988.

Two Marin Women Win Bias Complaint

Two women recently agreed to a \$500 settlement in response to a sexual preference discrimination complaint filed with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) against a San Anselmo landlord.

Judy MacLean and Leanne Bryan applied to rent a three bedroom duplex from owner Lorna Tinus in May. They were turned down for the apartment and say they were told by Tinus that the downstairs tenant did not want a lesbian couple living above her. The two women found that the longer they thought about the incident, the more upset they became, and in mid-June they called the Fair Housing Program of the Marin Housing center for assistance.

Fair Housing Program Director, Nancy Kenyon commented, "California's Fair Housing Laws

were passed to insure that people are considered on their individual merits. A tenant's sexual preference has nothing to do with their qualifications to rent a home."

Kenyon added, "I would like to see all property owners in the county voluntarily use this as a minimum guideline."

In addition, DFEH published a memo in June, 1985 stating that the Department would accept and investigate complaints of unfair occupancy standards, noting that "any standard more restrictive than the 'Uniform Housing Code' should be considered sus-

pect."

The Marin Fair Housing Program, one of four programs of the Marin Housing Center in San Rafael, provides counseling, mediation, investigative services and legal assistance to persons experiencing housing discrimination. When complaints cannot be mediated outside the legal system, the program refers clients to civil rights attorneys or to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing for legal action.

For more information, call 457-5025.

UC Davis Probes AIDS Virus In Humans, Animals; Seeks Vaccine

The University of California, Davis, has received a record \$1.2 million in state funds for AIDS research to study the deadly virus and a similar virus in monkeys and cats.

The \$1.2 million includes \$378,000 for the AIDS Virus Diagnostic Laboratory and \$105,433 for the development of an AIDS vaccine.

The \$1.2 million is part of \$10 million appropriated for the 1987-88 fiscal year by the state legislature on the recommendations of the university-wide Task Force on AIDS.

"UC Davis is playing a key role in studying ways to combat acquired immune deficiency disease," said Murray B. Gardner, M.D., professor and chair of

pathology at the UC Davis School of Medicine and the coordinator of the campus AIDS research.

The \$378,000 to the AIDS Virus Diagnostic Laboratory will be used to detect, study and culture the AIDS virus.

The lab is the central reference facility for other Task Force researchers, and serves as a reference lab for HIV testing for regional blood banks, hospital clinical laboratories and private physicians.

Self-Hypnosis The Topic Of E. Bay Series

The Second Friday Series of the AIDS Project of the East Bay begins on Friday, Nov. 13 with a workshop called "Using Self-Hypnosis to Enhance the Mind/Body Healing Process." The workshop will be conducted by psychologist Robert Avenson, who works with a variety of individuals, couples, families and groups in his psychotherapy practice.

The program also offers short-term counseling for the "Worried Well" and workshops for health care professionals on testing issues and counseling implications. All workshops and counseling are offered for free. Call 420-8181 for details.

Every Nook, Cranny and Unearthly Crevice

REDOUBTABLE CULMINATION (An Oxymoron Nose)

Cobwebs hung from every conceivable protrusion. Ghouls, ogres, and hobgoblins leered from every nook and cranny, dragging chains. Howls and strange noises emanated from unearthly crevices. Creatures of the night donned phantasmal rainments and paraded zombie-like at the bewitching hour.

A graveyard was created where once a pool table stood. It was complete with three open coffins, hideous decapitations, tombstones, weird creatures, grotesque flora, death wreaths, sacrificial altar, flickering lights, and an ever watchful vulture. The lounge was transformed into a somber and threatening will-reading room.

Grime was splattered on the walls, and bizarre epitaphs were scribed in ichor. The aura of imminent extinction permeated every movement of the interlopers. The encroachers continued to gather as if drawn by some mysterious force that compelled them to alter their covert destiny.

"Just When You Thought It Was Safe..." was the theme of Revol's Halloween—and closing—party. The loyal, the curious, the party-hoppers, the occasionals, and the first-timers all gathered this night in an obsessed querying of just what the end is really like. None were disappointed.

In direct contrast to the ambience of horror, the newly formed Revolettes contributed four shows of humor, drag, and spirit(!) lifting. "Revol-rumors" were circulating that they just may take their show on the road in the future. Kudos and plaudits to Stella, Felicia, Dottie, and Penelope for their fantastic efforts. Their tip jar provided \$116.65 for EBAF.

An unheard of phenomenon occurred at midnight. No drinks were allowed to be sold during the reading of the will, and for 20 plus minutes, hopeful recipients eagerly awaited their benefit from the document's disclosures. No one went away empty handed. The last item entitled everyone in attendance to one last free drink at Revol.

There are memories. Lots of them. Some good, some not so good. Thirteen and a half years is a long time. A very long time. It's an end of an era, whose time had come. As with any passing, only the good should be remembered; but the bitter-sweet years will take some time to fully digest.

The list of people to thank would be endless, and undoubtedly some would be omitted. But one person has to be singled out. Bless you, Steve. To quote Phil G., "Too late, too late."

As for all the others involved in any way with Revol, suffice it to say, "You know who you are. Thank you!"

The "name of the game" won't have quite the same feeling when called during liar's dice at some other bar. But what better way to end this piece than, "A Broderick Crawford."

UNORDINARY BUT RUDIMENTARY CIRCUMSTANCE (A "Glad I Was There" Nose)

Last Saturday, Nov. 7, the Allen



Pete and Ralph pay their final respects at Revol's open casket

Temple Baptist Church of Oakland presented its AIDS Conference, A Christian and Medical Response to a Health Crisis. It was held in the Fellowship Hall.

The anticipated attendance wasn't attained, and Rev. J. Alfred Smith, Sr., pastor, expressed his disappointment at the turnout and added that those who were there knew the content of the conference. The audience should have been filled with the youth of the community; the youth who are about to or have just entered the sexually active /curious stages of their lives. Pastor Smith announced that the next such conference would have all facets of the church concerned and involved.

Guest speakers on the panel included: Robert Scott, M.D., family practice and internal medicine; James E. Jackson, M.D., chief of obstetrics at Highland Hospital; Mary Davis, D.N.Sc., health educator, Alameda County; Shirley Manly, R.N., discharge planning consultant; Tommie Laviene, R.N., advice nurse, Kaiser, S.F.; and Gloria, a woman with ARC.

The main emphasis of the conference centered around the fact that black churches are not doing their Christian duty towards the black community as far as educating about AIDS. It was extremely refreshing that homosexuality was not the issue, but education.

Mary Davis said that when one has a sex partner, one is with everyone the partner has been with in the last ten years. "And that makes for a very crowded bed!" she added.

Gloria had recently been released from a California women's prison, and admitted that she was an I.V. user. When questioned about her time in prison, she stated that drugs and I.V.s were common "inside," and that out of 3,000 inmates, roughly 1,500 were using needles—needles from only four outfits!

Both doctors emphasized that there were only three ways to contract the disease: exchange of

body fluids (semen, vaginal secretions, and mother's milk); shared I.V. needles; and tainted blood. They reinforced that the Church had a duty to all blacks to educate them on how to prevent the transfer. No judgmental morals were ever mentioned throughout the four-hour conference. That was refreshingly nice.

One outstanding highlight of the event was when Pastor Smith showed a copy of a page from the Christian Science Monitor. It was a picture of him giving a speech at Harvard, on how the church must educate about AIDS. "If only one other church in the U.S. sees this article and copies what we here at Allen Temple in Oakland are doing, it will be a god-send." Amen to that.

SALMAGUNDI (A "Bits & Pieces" Nose)

For the curious, the faithful, and the followers, Steve (nee Revol) will be on the planks of Town & Country, starting on Monday, Nov. 23.

"Old Nez" will continue his annual Chili Cook-Off. Yours truly will stage the event at Town & Country on Jan. 11, 1988. The original charity will be reinstated—Alameda County Special Olympics.

Speaking of, "Just When You Thought It Was Safe..." Rhonda Love is back in town!

The Spoiled Brat will present Die Bold & Company, with a new record release party of Your Eyes at midnight, Friday the 13 of November.

Little Mother's A Nite of Stars is this Sunday at Spoiled Brat. Featured entertainers will be Pauline, Jim Brown at the piano, and special guest Terracita. A buffet will be served between the 5 and 7 p.m. shows. A suggested \$5 donation will go to EBAF.

The zucchini never ends! Rob Miller will present a \$1,000 check from the Hayward Zucchini Festival to Little Mother, at the above-mentioned event. That, too, will go to EBAF.

The Revol Memorabilia Auction, presented by Little Mother at Town & Country, will be on Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. Ralph and Pete will announce their choice of auctioneers at that time.

I Guess You Had to Be There Department: At one of our local pubs, someone brought up the name of a once prominent member of the "community." "Whatever happened to 'so-and-so'?" queried the patron. The rousing response from the gathered clientele was, "Who Cares!" Alas, fame is fleeting, right? By the way, whatever happened to—oh, never mind!

Silber Distributing (Jack and Jim nee Turf Club) presented a check to EBAF for \$98.50. This

is the latest in their donations to charity for liquor from their company. The three bars who were responsible are Cabel's Reef, Revol, and Town & Country. A tip of Nez's nose to all concerned.

Gary Schnider's last night at the Town & Country was Sunday, Nov. 8. He will be doing his thing at a bar out in some shopping center in Danville—or was it Livermore? With Gary leaving, and Steve coming in, whatever will M&J do?

In any organization there will always be one person who knows what's going on. That person must be terminated! I can smile at that. Love,

Nez

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FRIDAY 13

• **Cocktails in Paris:** a benefit for Project Open Hand and the S.F. Gay Men's Chorus, Level Five, Neiman Marcus' Historic Rotunda, Union Square, S.F., 6-8:30 PM, \$25. Guest appearance by S.F. Gay Men's Chorus, hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar. Call 398-5646 for tickets and more information.

• **Can't Keep A Straight Face:** comedy, Phoenix Theater, 301 8th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, call 431-6777 for tickets. With Tom Ammann, Suzy Berger, Laurie Bushman, Doug Holsclaw, Kelly Kittell, and Jeanine Strobel. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

• **Poppies:** stage performance, The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8. The American premiere of the play by Noel Greig of the Gay Sweatshop of London, directed by Nicholas Deutsch, about an aging gay couple haunted by loves of the past and the menace of a militaristic future. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

• **The Seven Descents of Myrtle:** stage performance, Next Stage, Trinity Church, Bush and Gough sts., S.F., 8 PM, \$11. S.F. Actors Theater presents the West Coast premiere of a rarely seen play by Tennessee Williams. Call 524-1306 for tickets.

• **Ladies Against Women:** an evening of consciousness lowering, Victoria Theatre, 16th and Mission sts., S.F., 8:30 PM, \$8-\$12. Call 863-7576, 763-8163 or 762-BASS for tickets.

• **Danny Williams:** comedy, Holy City Zoo, 408 Clement St., 9 and 11 PM, \$6. Call 386-4242 for more information.

• **Faith Nolan:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$6-\$8 sliding scale.

• **Pauline:** music, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for reservations.

• **Sing-A-Long:** with Frank Banks on the piano, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.

• **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

• **Pagan/Faerie Piercing Ritual:** body piercing with Jim Ward of The Gauntlet, 7:30 PM. Call 621-6294 for more information.

• **X-Tra-C Cross Country Ski Club:** potluck, 7-10 PM. Call 931-1158 for more information.

• **Federal Lesbians and Gays:** meeting, Fox Plaza, 1390 Market St., S.F., 6-8 PM, \$2. Speakers from the Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators will be featured. Free buffet, no-host bar. Call 695-8174 for more information.

• **Black and White Men Together:** East Bay social activity. Call 261-7922 for more information.

• **Applied Meditation For Intuitive Problem Solving:** workshop with Margo Adair, sliding scale, pre-registration required. Call 861-6838 for more information.

• **Using Self-Hypnosis to Enhance the Mind/Body Healing Process:** workshop with Robert Avenson. Call 420-8181 for more information.

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** service, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., 8 PM, \$2. Males 18+ welcome. Call 552-7339 for more information.

SATURDAY 14

• **Club La Star:** Western Star Dancers fourth annual talent and variety show, 2nd Floor, Central YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave., S.F., doors open 7:15 PM, show starts 8 PM, \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door.

• **'50s Night:** evening of music, dancing, food, and prizes presented by Dignity/SF, San Francisco MCC Hall, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7-11 PM, \$12.50.

• **Pat Bond:** one-woman theater, Sisterspirit Coffeehouse, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, doors open 8 PM, \$5-\$10 sliding scale.

• **Dancing In The Dark:** stage performance, Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St., S.F., 8 PM, \$10-\$12 (\$1 off with donation to S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank). A suspense comedy by D.R. Andersen, directed by Larry Russell. Call 861-5079 for tickets.

• **Madness Is My Middle Name:** performance, Gregory Ghent Gallery, Room 206, 301 8th St., S.F., doors open 8:30 PM, \$5. With Tim Barrus and Mark I. Chester.

• **Can't Keep A Straight Face:** comedy (see Friday listing for details).

• **Poppies:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Ladies Against Women:** an evening of consciousness lowering (see Friday listing for details).

• **The Seven Descents of Myrtle:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Mikio Hirata:** music, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for reservations.

• **Diane Schiactus and Maura Shannon:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 8 PM, \$5.

• **Danny Williams:** comedy (see Friday listing for details).

• **Mark Levine:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.



See feathers and flesh every Thursday at the N'Touch (Photo: J. Dusch)

• **Anywhere, Anywhere:** author Tim Barrus will sign copies of his book, Walt Whitman Bookshop, 2319 Market St., S.F., 1-3 PM.

• **Jim Ward of The Gauntlet:** piercing, Mr. S Leathers, 227 7th St., S.F., noon to 5 PM. Call 863-7764 for more information.

• **Women and Their Work: Practical Applications:** panel discussion moderated by Ann Meredith, California History Center, Trionon Bldg., De Anza College, 21250 Stevens Creek Blvd., Cupertino, 10 AM to noon.

• **Mediterranean Lesbians and Gays:** potluck, 7 PM, S.F. Call 824-6194 or 775-6143 for more information.

• **Bay Area Bisexual Network:** discussion and social support meeting. First Congregational Church of San Rafael, 8 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael, 7:30 PM, \$3 members, \$5 non-members. The discussion topic will be, "Is There Life After Coming Out Bisexual?" Call 865-4927 for more information.

• **EastBay FrontRunners:** Alameda shoreline run. Take 23rd Ave. exit off Hwy 17 to Kennedy St. Turn onto Park St. from Kennedy. Cross Park St. Bridge into Alameda and continue to end. Meet at the intersection of Park St. and Shoreline Dr. Flat 3-5 mile loop. Call 261-3246 for more information.

• **San Francisco FrontRunners:** Meet at Stow Lake Boathouse in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 9 AM. No-host brunch follows; beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.

• **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at 1 PM at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F. to decide on a ride.

• **Applied Meditation for Intuitive Problem Solving:** workshop with Margo Adair (see Friday listing for details).

• **Church of the Secret Gospel:** phallic fellowship, 746 Clementina St., Apt. 2, S.F., doors open 8 PM-1 AM. Males 18+ welcome. Call 621-1887 for more information.

SUNDAY 15

• **Pigs In Paradise:** tea dance, Dreamland, 715 Harrison St., S.F., 4 PM to midnight, \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. Benefit for the Golden State Peace Officers Association Education Fund and the AIDS Emergency Fund. Music by DJ Robbie Leslie. Tickets at Headlines, All American Boy, G.W. Finley, and New York Man.

• **Gay Sports Day:** 6th annual, Angel Island, ferry departs S.F. from Pier 43 1/2 at 10:50 AM, returns 3:50 PM, fare \$7.10 return (bike space limited), potluck picnic 1:30-3:15 PM (bring a dish to share). Fun run, hike, softball, volleyball, wrestling match, and more. Call 922-1435, 626-1478, or 665-4663 for more information.

• **Dancing In The Dark:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).

• **Poppies:** stage performance (see Friday listing for details).

• **Ladies Against Women:** an evening of consciousness lowering, 7:30 PM (see Friday listing for details).

• **Color Me Famous:** cabaret with Sandal Hebert, The Underground of Lippis, 201 Howard St., S.F., doors open 7:45 PM, show starts 8:30 PM, \$6. Call 552-3466 for more information.

• **Heather Bishop:** music, Artemis Cafe, 1199 Valencia St., S.F., 7 PM, \$6.

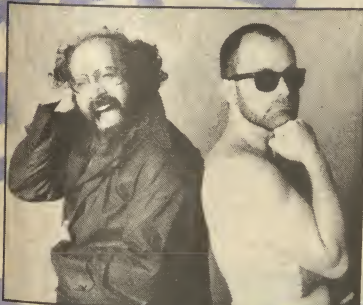
• **Brazilian Beat:** music, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 4-8 PM, \$3.

• **Faith Winthrop and Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.

WEEK

- **Jim Ward of The Gauntlet:** body piercing, Image Leather, 2199 Market St., S.F., noon to 5 PM. Call 621-7551 for more information.
- **G40+:** meeting, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St., S.F., 2 PM. Philip Mass will talk about Robert G. Ingersoll and Bill Ingersoll will talk about opera.
- **Hortiphiles:** potluck lunch social for gays who enjoy growing plants, Palo Alto, noon. Call 325-7212 for more information.
- **Palo Alto Lesbian Rap Group:** meeting, Old Firehouse, Stanford University Campus, 7:30 PM. The guest speaker will be from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Call 969-1260 for more information.
- **Gay Volleyball:** playground at Petro Jr. High, 19th and DeHaro, 11 AM.
- **Different Spokes/San Francisco:** decide and ride. Meet at MacLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 10 AM to decide on a ride.
- **Tsunami Masters Swim Team:** practice, King Pool, Third and Carroll sts., S.F., 10 AM to noon. Call 285-5659 for more information.
- **Diablo Valley MCC:** worship and communion service, 2253 Concord Blvd., Concord, 10 AM. Call 827-2960 for more information.
- **Integrity:** informal Eucharist for the community, St. John's Church, 1661 15th St., S.F., 5:30 PM.
- **Affirmation:** gay and lesbian Mormons, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7 PM. Call 641-4554 for more information.

- **Radiant Light Ministries:** Sunday celebration of love and life, Swedish American Hall, 2174 Market St., S.F., 10 AM. Call 861-1667 for more information.
- **New Life MCC:** worship and communion service, 1823 9th St., Berkeley, 5 PM. Call 843-9355 for more information.
- **Calvary MCC:** worship service, 2124 Brewster Ave., Redwood City, 6 PM. Call 368-0188 for more information.
- **MCC of the Redwoods:** worship and communion service, Olive and Throckmorton Sts., Mill Valley, 10:45 AM. Call 388-2315 for more information.
- **Latter-Day Saints:** sacrament meeting for lesbians and gays and their friends, Sacramento Lambda Community Center, 1931 L St., Sacramento, 1 PM. Conducted by the Sacramento Family of the Restoration Church of Jesus Christ. Call (916) 447-5755 for more information.
- **Golden Gate MCC:** Sunday worship services, 48 Belcher St. (between 14th St. and Duboce), S.F., 12:30 PM, 7 PM. Call 474-4848 for details.
- **Holy Trinity Church:** meets at the Billy DeFrank Community Center, 1040 Park Ave., San Jose, 10 AM to noon.



Mark I. Chester and Tim Barrus will perform at the Gregory Ghent Gallery Nov. 14 (Photo: M. Rosen)

TUESDAY 17

- **Homopolo:** gay and lesbian Waterpolo team workout, Oakland High School pool, 1055 McArthur Blvd., Oakland, 7:15-9 PM. All levels of swimmers encouraged. Call 824-4848 for more information.
- **Gay Support Group For People With ARC:** and alcohol/substance abuse, Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-9 PM. Individual and group process. Call 626-7000 for in-take appointment.
- **Russian River S/M Support Group:** rap. Call (707) 887-2697 for more information.
- **Gus Gustavson:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Marching Band and Twirling Corps:** rehearsal, Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St., S.F., 7:30 PM. All band instrumentalists are needed. Call 621-5619 for more information. Every Tuesday.
- **Gay International Folk Dancing:** for lesbians and gay men, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, Collingwood Park, S.F., teaching 7:30-8 PM, request dancing 8-9:30 PM, \$2.50. Call 585-9784 or 285-5634 for details.

WEDNESDAY 18

- **Live Comedy:** Bernal de Janeiro Room, El Rio, 3158 Mission St., S.F., 8-10 PM, \$2. Marga Gomez and Danny Williams will MC.
- **Judy Hell:** open mike cabaret, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for reservations.
- **Male Strip Show:** Bench and Bar, 120 11th St., Oakland, 10 PM.
- **Dick Fregulia:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Open Mike Cabaret:** with Katibelle Collins and Lauren Mayer, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-8 PM.
- **Dancing In The Dark:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Castro Lions Club:** meeting, Cafe DuNord, 2170 Market St., S.F., 6:30 PM, \$10 optional dinner. Golden Gate Business Association Foundation Co-Chairs Bob Munk and Cheri Bryant will talk about how to give away money.
- **Bisexual Women's Rap Group:** open meeting, Pacific Center For Human Growth, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 8-9:50 PM, \$3-\$5. This week's topic is pleasing yourself/pleasing others. Wheelchair accessible and signed for the hearing impaired. Call 841-6224 for more information.
- **It's Not All Black and White:** November men's series, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30-9 PM. Call 863-4434 for more information.
- **Ballroom Dance:** beginning instruction for lesbians and gay men, 3435 Army St., Studio 204, S.F., 8:30-10 PM, \$4. Call 431-4883 for more information.

THURSDAY 19

- **The Times of Harvey Milk:** film, Lurie Room, Main Library, S.F., noon, free. Filmmaker Rob Epstein will be present. Sponsored by the Friends of the San Francisco Public Library.
- **Frameline Presents:** part two of *Playing With Fire*, cable channel 25, S.F., 8 PM. Also featured will be video shorts and Judy Sloan's *Reclaiming The Past*. Call 861-5245 for more information.
- **David Whitlock Quartet:** music, Teddy Bears, 131 Gough St., S.F., 9 PM, no cover. Call 621-6766 for more information.
- **Feathers 'N' Flesh:** male dancers and female impersonators, N' Touch, 1548 Polk St., S.F., 10 PM. Desiree will MC.
- **Gus Gustavson and Faith Winthrop:** music, Piano Zinc, 708 14th St., S.F., 8:30 PM.
- **Open Mike Comedy:** with Darlene Popovic and friends, Belden 22, 22 Belden Place, S.F., 6-9 PM.
- **Dancing In The Dark:** stage performance (see Saturday listing for details).
- **Bay Area Network of Gay and Lesbian Educators:** monthly meeting, potluck 6:30 PM, meeting 7:30 PM, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F. Call 864-4099 or 285-5078 for more information.
- **Black and White Men Together:** rap on managing holiday stress, 1350 Waller St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 931-BWMT for more information.
- **San Francisco FrontRunners:** meet at McLaren Lodge in Golden Gate Park, S.F., at 6:30 PM. No-host dinner follows, beginners welcome. Call 647-3227 or 337-8704 for more information.
- **Bingo:** To benefit Coming Home Hospice, S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank, and the AIDS Emergency Fund, Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St., S.F., doors open 6 PM, games begin 7 PM, \$10 minimum buy-in. An alcohol-free space. Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages sold. Smoking and non-smoking areas. Pull Tabs, door prizes, raffle.

MONDAY 16

- **Jule! The Broadway Music of Jule Styne:** a benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund, Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St., S.F., 8 PM, \$25-\$40. With Tom Anderson, Val Diamond, Tom DiPasqua, Cindy Herron, Bob Katanek, Michael Levesque, Meg McKay, Sharon McNight, John Nockels, Gail Wilson, and Donald Wescoat.
- **The New Loving Someone Gay:** discussion and book signing with the author, Don Clark, Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 7:30 PM.
- **S.F. Jacks:** generic jack-off, 890 Folsom St., S.F., doors open 7:30-8:30 PM, \$5.
- **Leathermen's/S/M Support Group:** meeting, Room 21, San Francisco MCC, 150 Eureka St., S.F., 7:30 PM. Call 931-6160 for more information.
- **Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders:** support group for older gay men (60+), Operation Concern, 1853 Market St., S.F., 7-8:30 PM. Call 626-7000 for more information.
- **Emotional Support Group:** for people who have lost their lovers due to AIDS/ARC, 7:30 PM. Call Sean Martinfield at 626-4329 for more information.

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BAY AREA REPORTER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Redthroat: Monologue About A Boy-Hustler

by Joseph W. Bean

David Cale is too big to be a sprite or leprechaun, but he gives the impression of being some such creature of the impossible. His face flickers with innocence and surprise as he talks about his show, *Redthroats*, which opens Wednesday, Nov. 16, at Life on the Water. His smile fades at times, but it never quite blinks out.

Cale has been going from success to success with his one-man shows in New York ever since he switched from singing, to reading his lyrics as poetry, to a unique brand of solo story-theatre. He says his work is fully scripted, with no room for improvisation in the words. "But, while the script stays the same," he adds, "the performance is always changing."

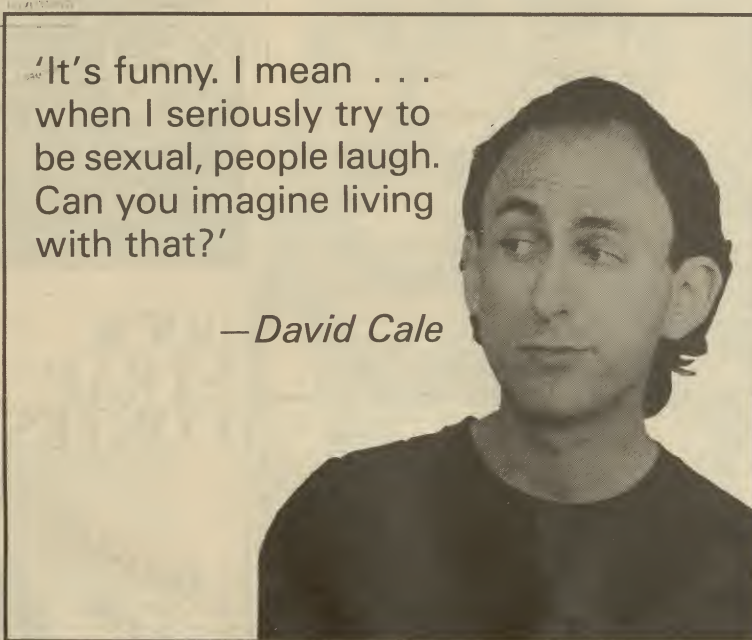
Redthroats, named for some little fish that once allegorically (?) disappeared from a ten-inch deep river, is not exactly autobiographical. "Really," Cale insists, "It isn't!" It is the story of a boy named Steve Weird—see, how different from a boy named David Cale. Steven is English, raised in a working-class family in an industrial suburb of London where the frustrations of the family lead to violence. That's in Part One, called "The Weirds."

In Part Two, "Swagger," Steven is a little older and has become a teen-age hustler. "Sexuality really isn't the issue though," Cale says. "Steven has sex with men. That's all."

Part Three, "Welcome to America," finds Steven, now 20, arriving in New York. Is he gay as an adult? Cale says, "I don't

'It's funny. I mean . . . when I seriously try to be sexual, people laugh. Can you imagine living with that?'

—David Cale



know. The piece just sort of ends up in the air."

As for the question of autobiography, Cale gets cagey. "We shouldn't say Mrs. Weird is my mother. We could, but we shouldn't." In fact, Cale, like Steven and Joe Orton, was raised in an industrial suburb of London, an area called Luton in David's case. He also lived and worked in London, but he assures us that the hustling part is not a

chapter from his own life. Still, coincidentally, David Cale, very like Steven, arrived in New York at age 20.

There isn't much of an English accent left in Cale's speech. "Actually," he says, "I can't really even write about English things anymore, but I'm not that American either." This might be a problem for some writer-performers, but not for Cale. "I like that I don't really fit in any-

where," he says with more than a trace of leprechaun-like mischief in his voice.

"I'm not really a writer," he adds, "but a book of my scripts is going to be published next year by Random House. I'm not really an actor, and don't have the training to listen to other people and respond to them that way, but I'm in two films, including Woody Allen's new one, and I've done some commercials. And, well, I don't know."

The show is probably as hard to pin down as its creator. East Coast reviewers, who have been shoving one another aside to get the longest, earliest, and wittiest bits in print about Cale, don't seem to agree at all about what he does. Critics have said that *Redthroats* is about a boy's "befuddlement with big city sexual manners" and that it is "a viscerally intense dream." They have compared Cale's writing to Kafka and James Joyce, and his style to Eric Bogosian and Spalding Gray. They have hailed his shows as triumphs of comedy, of drama, and of "reverse psychotherapy."

What light can Cale shed on the subject of just what *Redthroats* is? "The show is," he starts off slowly, "well, it's quite a still show. I sit down for most of the first and third parts. It's very loud actually, vocally a very loud show. It's funny. I hope it is. I mean, when I do it seriously, when I seriously try to be sexual, people laugh. Can you imagine living with that? So, it is funny, and sometimes it's sad, and, I hope, it's compassionate, too."

Whatever *Redthroats* may be (beyond the definite fact that it is a monologue made up of three related stories from the life of an English boy-hustler-expatriate) whether it is fiction or memory, humor or tragedy, theatre or performance art, one thing is sure. If the show is half as intriguing as David Cale himself, it will be very interesting, and far more entertaining than most one-man shows are these days.

Redthroats plays on Nov. 18-22 only. Tickets are available through BASS and STBS, or call 776-8999.

Whodunit?

'Dancing In The Dark' Provides The Answer . . . And More

by Joseph W. Bean

Dancing in the Dark, which opens Saturday on the mainstage at Theatre Rhinoceros, is a comedy-mystery. Director Larry Russell says, "Basically, it's a little diversion that delights. The best comparison is a *divertissement*, a little dance for five which we have seen before and always enjoyed. This time the twist on the romantic form is that all the characters are men."

Well, actually, since the play is at Rhino, having all the romantic involvements turn on gay men or lesbians is no surprise. But, as Russell says, "There are plenty of surprises. This play will keep you guessing right up to the end. The second act—which opens with Chuck Kubick and Steve Abel costumed in nothing more than their BVDs and socks—is one surprise after another, one reverse on the heels of another. You won't know "whodunit" until the last moment, no matter how many times you think you have it figured out."

When a great looking guy

shows up reading news on television, it is only natural to assume that he's gay, but of course, he has to stay closeted to keep his job. Right? Of course right, after enough years of having people insolently assuming you're straight until proven bent, it's perfectly natural. This play is a gay man's vicarious revenge. Here a gay journalist plots to expose a closeted TV news anchor. What a delicious thought!

The title isn't entirely meaningless either, the Kubick character (Gordie) really does like to turn the lights down low and dance with his boyfriend, the anchorman. Oooops! You don't want too much of the plot given away, do you? But, now you know the anchor really is gay, so you won't have to feel sorry for any misunderstood straight man being "accused" of being "different."

Dancing ran very successfully in New York for at least six months, and with good reason. It has lots of scary moments, lots of



Chuck Kubick (l.) and Steve Abel struggle in *Dancing in the Dark* (Photo: Mark I. Chester)

laughs, lots of craziness, and plenty of bare, male skin.

Performances are Wednesday through Sunday at 8 p.m. with

three Sunday matinees during the six-week run. And, don't forget, Rhino will give you a \$1 discount on your ticket if you

bring along a donation of canned food for the S.F. AIDS Foundation Food Bank. Call 861-5079 for reservations.

'Myrtle': A Fascinating Failure With Great Acting

by Robert Frank

The meek shall inherit the earth" is a basic beatitude and platitude of the Christian faith. Obviously, gay playwright Tennessee Williams questioned it and did not believe it (unless he felt that it meant that part of the earth that is six feet under).

He demonstrated this in 1947 with his great, prize-winning play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, in which frail Blanche Dubois lost her beloved "Bellerive" and her sanity, in part due to the brutish Stanley Kowalski. A little over two decades later Williams reinforced his theme with a play originally titled *Kingdom of Earth*, then changed before its Broadway opening in 1968 to *The Seven Descents of Myrtle*.

It is Williams' 1975 revision of this play that the San Francisco Actors Theater is presenting at Trinity Church on Bush Street and Austin Alley, near Gough, Friday and Saturday nights, until Dec. 12.

Williams' biographer, Donald Spoto says, *Myrtle* was created "at a desperate time in his life and career... written at a time of spiritual dissolution, it italicizes the playwright's suspicion that he might soon die, and that his estate would pass to unworthy others."

A genteel, effete man, Lot, suffering from TB and a mother complex, marries a loud, blond showgirl and "Queen for a Day" winner, Myrtle ("Take-Life-Easy Queen")—wins electrical appliances. Lot does this to have a surviving widow. He doesn't want his uncouth, macho half-brother,



Timmy Spence (top), Ron Dorn, and Este Gardner in *The Seven Descents of Myrtle*

Chicken (the "unworthy other"), to inherit the house.

In this play Williams touches upon many themes. He writes about bigotry, racism, miscegenation, religion, materialism, selfishness ("When people are desperate, they only think of themselves"), survival ("People do what they always do [to survive]"), white Old-South decadence, human respect and preference for the "strong" over the

not always being very applicable to basic human nature. While no brother kills the other in this Cain/Abel tale, one is wishing for the other to die in order to gain property. Meanwhile, the other wants to keep his brother from an inheritance.

The Bible story of Lot and his wife is inverted here: instead of disobeying and being destroyed

for it, she does the bidding of both men and survives, while Lot dies. Lot was a righteous man in the Bible. He's not so righteous in this play. No one is. The "descents" refers to Myrtle's descension down the stairs to the kitchen.

TOO MUCH

It can be said, as many critics

(Continued on page 36)

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MOVIES

'Less Than Zero'

Gays Get It Again From Hollywood

by Will Snyder

In Bret Easton Ellis' 1985 novel, *Less Than Zero*, the main character, Clay, is an 18-year-old college freshman who dabbles in bisexuality and cocaine. In the book, Clay has friends who are bisexual and friends who casually talk about bisexuality.

While the characters in the book are extremely selfish, bisexuality is never treated in a negative way. As a film, *Less Than Zero* represented a chance—with its abstract writing style as well as its characters—for a truly different look at young people.

When Twentieth Century Fox announced that Marek Kaniévka had been hired to direct the film, *Less Than Zero* seemed to have a chance. Kaniévka, after all, had directed the marvelous *Another Country*, a film with tasteful gay content and very little Hollywood schtick. Fox exec Scott Rudin said that Kaniévka, an Englishman, would give the film a viewpoint about Beverly Hills brats that only a European could give a film.

Well, Kaniévka probably has season tickets to the Dodgers, now. He probably has a Safeway check cashing card. *Less Than Zero* became that Hollywood-ized.

Despite a death due to cocaine by one of the main characters (Robert Downey, Jr., who is marvelous as Julian), the film has

lost the punch of the novel. Clay, played with some conviction by Andrew McCarthy, has become a straight-arrow hetero ("Bisexuality is out," screenwriter Harley Peyton told the Los Angeles Times.). His mission throughout the movie is to save his buddy Julian and his girl friend, Blair (Jami Gertz) from La-La Land and all of its evils.

That should bring a glow to Nancy Reagan, but Peyton should have just said no to this schtick.

The gay community should just say no to this movie, too. The only gay moments left from the book involve Julian trying to work off a \$50,000 debt to dealer/pimp Rip (James Spader) by turning tricks with guys. On the surface, there's nothing unrealistic with this. After all, there are, for better or worse, these kind of people in the gay community.

By cutting the non-judgmental bisexual parts from the book and leaving in just the prostitution scenes (and remembering Peyton's cynical comment), it becomes obvious what the gay community means to the movie-makers.

Kaniévka should have stayed in another country.

(*Galaxy*, *UA The Movies*, *Empire*)

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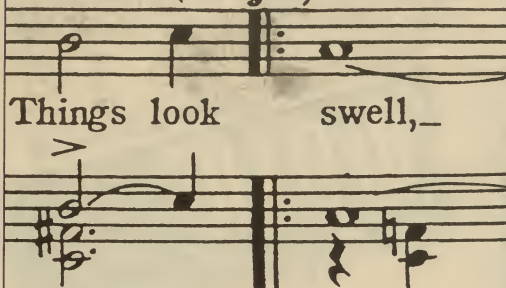
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the Broadway Music of Jule Styne

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featuring
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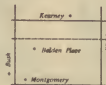
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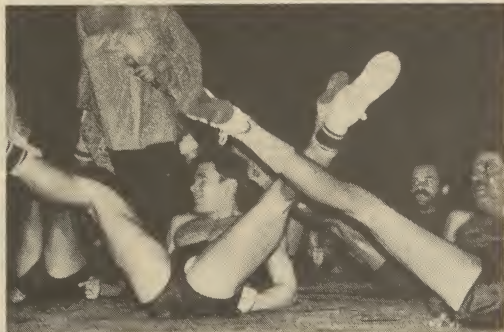
There was a cattle call on Mission Street last Saturday, but there was nary a cowboy in sight. "Cattle call" is Broadway slang for an open audition, which generally brings out so many people who want to get into a show that they're herded across the stage in bunches. When I saw the open audition call from the producers of *Men Behind Bars*, soliciting hunks for the upcoming 4th edition of the show, visions of pectorals danced in my head, and I thought it behooved me to check out the passing parade of hunky hopefuls. All in the cause of journalism, of course.

Well, the beef wasn't as plentiful as I'd expected, or as co-producers Jim Cvitanich and Mark Abramson hoped. There were a couple of Castro hunks, a bartender or three, and a whole tangle of Tap Troupers. But the desired number of fellahs with deltoids on display didn't materialize. And that's too bad, because the producers are particularly keen on bringing new people into the show.

That's a major change. Previous editions of *MBB*—crack entertainments and fabulously successful AIDS charity fundraisers—have been pre-cast with the titular bartenders, who were complimented by the gay community's performing groups and select stars. But this year's show has an expanded concept which calls for and allows the participation of more people. Hence, last Saturday's Muscle Muster.

"There's been a lot of interest expressed in the show," Cvitanich told me while Abramson nodded docily. "We thought this would be a good way to involve more people. The show has been a loose revue, but this year has more of a script. It's *I Love Lucy Meets 42nd Street* and *Goes With the Wind*; it's evil queens stabbing each other to get into the show. Why, our box office girl, Miss Peckerhead, will do anything, even if it means sabotaging Gail Wilson!"

"The plot of the show will revolve around the audition process itself," Cvitanich explained, "with the second act representing the show itself, and encom-



Previous *Men Behind Bars* chorus lines were made up solely of bartenders. Now, *MBB* wants you to lay it on the line!

passing the whole conceit of simultaneous onstage and backstage action and intrigue."

This expanded script calls not only for more characters and the actors to play them, but, most importantly, a chorus line of show girls. Oops! I mean, show guys. Well—Folies Men is what they'll be called. And I get to watch the prospective beauties audition. Bypassing the music room where vocal abilities are assessed, and making my way through Tap Troupers beguilingly revealed in stretchy bicycle racing shorts, transparent jazz dance pants, and thigh-hugging basketball shorts, I head for the front studio of the Jon Sims Performing Arts Center, where the Folies Men-to-be are warming up. To me, it's the Call of the Wild.

Almost. There's only three guys—although they're all choice. A few latecomers arrive, enough to learn the combination of steps for their muscle strut production number, choreographed teasingly by Terry Han-shaw. Her assistant, dancer Jim Snaidach, leads the warm-ups.

It's not easy—muscles aren't trained to move like this, and the men's movement more often looks like Continental Drift than dancing. They're thrown by having to watch themselves in the dance studio's big mirrors, and by being led through a wicked exercise in which they sit down, spread their legs in a wide "V" and touch their noses to the floor! But a showgirl—oops!—a Folies Man has to s-t-r-e-t-c-h it out!



Sharon McNight and Val Diamond would like you to join them Nov. 16 for a tribute to Jule Styne to benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund

Now Snaidach has them putting their arms overhead in the classic *en haut* ballet position, but transformed to a bodybuilder's preening flex. Suddenly on familiar ground, they're more at home. They ease up even more when asked to turn their backs to the audience, bend over, and slap their bums. And when given free rein to count to seven and pose, in muscle, sexy or sleazy style, they begin to envision the glorious possibilities of being Folies Men.

Snaidach, of course, has the attitude down pat. The flared hauteur of his nostrils gives him a perpetual look of sexual hunger. The rest of the men have four months to translate that look into their own personal style and steps. But already, right before my eyes, they're becoming dancers. Or, at least, show girls. Oops—Folies Men. (If you want to join them on stage, call Cvitanich at 621-6476.)

★ ★ ★

Another show, coming even sooner, is *Jule! The Broadway Music of Jule Styne*, and it, too, is a benefit—this one for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

"A bunch of Beach Blanket Babylon performers, current and former, wanted to do something for AIDS," producer Gene Price told me. "They looked around for what it could be, and even considered a concert version of *Hair!* then my co-producer Tom Andersen thought of the Styne revue. Styne's name isn't well known, but his works are—they include *Cypsy*, *Funny Girl*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *Bells are Ringing*, and so many others."

Beside singer Anderson, the all-star cast will feature Gail Wilson, Cindy Herron, John Nockels, Sharon McNight, Val Diamond, Bob Kastanek and others, all emceed by KPIX *People Are Talking* host Ann Fraser. And among the favorite Styne classics performed, there'll be some choice rarities (I know because some of them came from my collection, and I was glad to supply them). Gail Wilson gets to knock out the toughly comic "If," and Anderson will reveal the beautiful ballad "Talking to Yourself." Sharon McNight will appear in the Shirley Temple take-off, "You Mustn't Be Discouraged," and Cindy Herron will do songs from *Hallelujah, Baby!*

And yes, the finale will be "Everything's Coming Up Roses," even though, I said, everything's not.

"But we've got to try and make it," said Gene, and that's the reason for the show. Tickets for the Nov. 16 benefit are at STBS, BASS, and the Great American Music Hall, 885-0750.

Courtly Matters

Two centuries ago, the business of producing opera was quite different from today. Composers were sponsored by wealthy patrons and, if favored by members of royalty, could anticipate having their works performed before the most powerful. They never had to worry about writing grant proposals, getting approval from conservative boards of directors, fundraising or having the premieres of their newest works shelved due to financial cutbacks.

Back in the good old days, getting an opera produced was a relatively simple matter. If you were a court composer, you wrote on commission and had your works performed before the king in his private theatre. If the king liked what he heard, he kept you well-housed, well-fed and well-stocked with the tools of your trade.

If few court theatres are still in use today as opera houses, it is largely because (a) the economics of the art form have grown so outrageous and (b) the current crop of kings are interested in more modern pursuits than baroque singing.

Opera queens, needless to say, still enjoy the stuff immensely.

In September, while touring Copenhagen, I visited the Theatre Museum housed within the Royal Court Theatre at Christiansborg Palace. Built in 1767, the auditorium and steeply-raked stage area now contain a fabulous collection of memorabilia from Denmark's theatrical past. Included are such treasures as Anna Pavlova's ballet slippers and a program from 1821 which lists the stage-struck Hans Christian Andersen as one of the extras performing in a ballet version of *Armidia*.

KEEPING STOCK IN STOCKHOLM

Once I arrived in Sweden, I found myself attending performances in the strangest places. Within hours of checking into my hotel, I was seated in the Royal Palace's Museum of Antiquities, (a beautiful hall filled with sculptures—both genuine and fake—which King Gustav III brought back from his shopping expeditions in Italy).

Later in the week I attended a performance featuring three of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos held in the recently restored Confidencen, which dates back to 1753, out at Ulriksdal's Palace in north Solna.

The highlight of my stay, however, was a visit to the Drottningholm Court Theatre, which I had first read about in college. Completed in 1766, this theatre had its heyday during the reign of King Gustav III, the subject of Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*. From 1810 to 1921, it was used primarily as a storage facility until someone went looking for an old painting and rediscovered a tiny baroque jewel box of an auditorium.

Soon afterwards, Agne Beijer began work on recommissioning the building which was reopened in 1922. Since 1946, public performances of chamber operas by Mozart, Gluck and other composers from the baroque era have been a standard summer attraction in Stockholm.

Most Americans know the Drottningholm Court Theatre from Ingmar Bergman's film ver-

sion of *The Magic Flute*. However, what they undoubtedly do not know is that, with the exception of some new ropes, the original stage machinery—designed more than 200 years ago—is still in use. Today, the Drottningholm is one of the best-preserved 18th-century court theatres to be found in Europe and certainly the only one which still functions according to its architect's original designs.

While touring the facility, I got a great personal thrill from helping to demonstrate the backstage wind machine while our tour guide operated the apparatus which is used to create thunder effects. Walking out onto the steeply raked wooden stage sent chills up and down my spine.

TRAVELING BACK IN TIME

The fact that this 465-seat auditorium is still functioning as an opera house means that its audiences enjoy a unique opportunity to experience the ambience and types of entertainment which were an integral part of 18th-century court life. Because the interior of the theatre was originally lit by hundreds of candles, the electrical lighting arrangements which are now used in the auditorium and on stage have been designed to imitate the original candlelight as closely as possible.

During performance, the auditorium remains partially lit (royalty used to talk back to the performance the way many Americans now converse with their television sets) and the instrumentalists wear powdered wigs.

When I attended a performance of Gluck's *Paride ed Elena* (Paris and Helen) at Drottningholm this summer, Iwa Sorenson's sprightly Amor, Sylvia Lindenstrand's Paris and Carina Morling's Pallas all demonstrated a solid sense of baroque style. Unfortunately, the soprano singing the role of Elena (Britt-Marie Aruhn) was not well and, to accommodate her indisposition, the character's principal arias were cut from the performance.

This was one instance, however, where the quality of the performance was sometimes less significant than the overall experience. After all, a chance to hear baroque opera performed in the baroque style in one of the baroque era's few remaining theatres is a bit like stepping back in time.

When I first started to learn about theatre history and set design, the Drottningholm Court Theatre was often studied for its use of painted, layered flats whose forced perspective resembled the works of Carlo Bibiena. To see Adele Anggard's sets for *Paride ed Elena* (including the cloud mechanism used for the appearance of Pallas as a *deus ex machina*) functioning so beautifully made all those moments of trying to imagine what it could have been like come

Saturday Night Under the Lights

Join cabaret vocalist Aldo Antonio Bell and comedian Robin Davies for a night of music and comedy as Belden 22 premieres its Saturday Night Cabaret series. There is a \$5 cover charge with two-drink minimum. There will be a buffet and special guests. Don't miss it!



The cast of Gluck's *Paride ed Elena* takes its bows at the historic Drottningholm Court Theatre outside Stockholm, Sweden

alive in front of my eyes.

Although the benches on which the audience at Drottningholm is seated may be harder than hell, the acoustics in the theatre are absolutely magnificent. And, while I enjoyed Bengt Peterson's production immensely, the most magical part of the evening occurred during intermission.

By that time, darkness had fallen and the Drottningholm Court Theatre's magnificent Dejeuner Salon was lit by only a handful of small electric candles. As the audience relaxed, their faces were reflected in an old mirror which gave a wonderfully theatrical glow to the event.

If you're heading to Sweden during the summer months, I urge you to attend a performance at the Drottningholm Court Theatre. For those attempting to seek out their operatic roots, the experience is an absolute must. ●

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Lines' New Menu

George Balanchine often likened the work of an artistic director in ballet to that of a chef, comparing a program of dancing to a *plat du jour* in a restaurant. The recent program given by Lines Dance Company at the Palace of Fine Arts was like a smorgasbord chosen from a menu of very different yet complementary cuisines, offering something for everybody on and off the stage.

I know of no other choreographer who creates with more affection for his dancers than Lines' artistic director Alonzo King. His three works on this program were very representative of his range as a choreographer, and they showcased Lines' dancers—both the veterans and several newcomers—with tailor-made roles. Lines also presented a solo, *Dance for Yal*, created by Bay Area choreographer Joanna Haigood, and *Icarus*, the most famous work by the doyen of American modern dance choreographers, Lucas Hoving.

Rain Dreaming, danced to Gwen Jones' improvisational playing of the didjeridoo (an Aboriginal instrument), is one of King's neo-primitive rituals. The dancers sometimes look like exotic animals, sometimes like exotic people, as they travel a movement continuum that takes whatever it wants from ethnic, modern, and ballet vocabularies. *Rain Dreaming* introduces the company in its most contemporary mode, establishing the dancers' versatility and verve, playing particular homage to the uni-



Lines dancer Marina Hotchkiss in Alonzo King's *Allegro Barbaro*

queness of Carmen Rozestraten in her memorable solos.

King's *Granados Pas de Deux* was made for Lines' diminutive dynamo, Maria Balagot, in part-

nership with Enrico Labayan, one of four male dancers making their Lines debuts this season. Labayan has not performed in the Bay Area before, though I remember seeing him dance an

excellent *Flower Festival Pas de Deux* with the Eglevsky Ballet Company one afternoon at Town Hall in New York. Maria Balagot's precipitate, razor-sharp technique was given a sly, smoldering hauteur by the Spanish flavor of this new pas de deux. Labayan more than met her halfway with his precision and ballon, tempered with classic machismo.

Choreographer Joanna Haigood's *Dance for Yal*, captioned "a passion fantasy," is set to an Edith Piaf vocal and uses a trapeze in usual and unusual ways. Joyful in the extreme, with surprises at every turn, it is a dance better seen than described. Soloist Katherine Warner performed it with humorous abandon, proving her versatility to be even greater than I'd already known it to be. Warner is a jewel of Bay Area dance who should be much better known than she is.

David Chase, a former member of Martha Graham's company, made his Lines debut in the role of Daedalus in Lucas Hoving's 1964 *Icarus*, a powerful evocation on the Greek myth that has often been presented by ballet companies. The role of the Sun, which is little more than a human set piece in this ballet, was performed with quiet radiance by Marina Hotchkiss. The central focus, told in a taut, extended duet, is on father and son as they plan their escape from the labyrinth in which they are imprisoned. Chase, a strong, statuesque man, was obviously on familiar terrain in this classic

modern work. As *Icarus*, Enrico Labayan gave one of the best performances in memory.

The program closed with an interesting new pointe ballet by Alonzo King, *Allegro Barbaro*, to Bartok piano pieces played by David Beryessa. What begins looking like a pleasant, innocuous neoclassical ensemble work gains musical and choreographic interest as it progresses. The ensemble movements, busy with activity, lack the unified impulse more rehearsal would probably provide. But the solos are splendid, and the two pas de deux are among my favorite in Lines' repertoire. Carmen Rozestraten's height and dynamic presence become a clever statement on dominance in her duet with Gregory Dawson, a very appealing and promising new dancer who seems able to assume a position in Lines' female ensemble without sacrificing his own maleness or unbalancing Lines' essentially feminist look. The limpid eloquence of a new female soloist from New York, Nora Heiber, was the highlight of this new work and the talk of an audience that is eager to see more of her.

Lines always provides an admirable showcase for its core group of dancers, whose proclivities seem to embrace modern dancing as easily as the classical ballet they were obviously trained for. The new variety in Lines' programming underscored this diversity, making the company's future look more secure than ever.

Philip Campbell

Daddy's Home

Music Director Herbert Blomstedt was back on the podium at Davies Hall last week, silencing, in one fell swoop, critics who went on the attack during his month-long absence. The brilliant return concert featured works soon to be recorded under the Symphony's new contract with London/Decca and the results promise a spectacular collaboration.

Choosing twentieth century composers with obvious links to the Romantic past, Blomstedt managed to satisfy both the staid subscribers and more adventurous detractors who complain of unimaginative and conservative programming.

The artistic arc followed by the concert's first half was clever and illuminating. Opening with Weber's precocious Overture to Peter Schmolli and His Neighbors, then sandwiching in Paul Hindemith's lovely *Trauermusik* (Music of Mourning), and concluding with the same composer's witty and flashy tribute to Weber, *Symphonic Metamorphosis* on Themes by Carl Maria von Weber, showed a progression from the past that maintains a healthy nostalgia.

Geraldine Walther, principal violist of the San Francisco Symphony since the 1976-77 season, has performed the *Trauermusik* before with previous director Edo de Waart and her familiarity with Hindemith's beautifully subdued lyrical line brought depth and solemnity to this moving piece, which almost seems to end before it has fully begun. Walther's charming, self-effacing stage manner belies her highly regard-

ed competence, but it brought her additional warm audience support and provided insight to a performer dedicated purely to music.

The *Trauermusik* will be recorded (again featuring Walther) along with the jaunty *Metamorphosis*. Intelligent choices, considering neither has received a state-of-the-art digital pressing yet. The voracious compact disc audience is hungrily searching for esoteric repertoire, and the *Metamorphosis* is currently represented by what amounts to nothing more than a stop gap—Ormandy's remastered 1979 analog disc with the Concert Music for Strings and Brass. Where the Philadelphia Orchestra gave a square, bright rendition marred by tinny sonics, Blomstedt allows more rhythmic freedom and the quirky excitement of the score comes to pulsing life.

The Symphony's next and most ambitious recording assignment was given a glorious final dress rehearsal on the same concert bill—Danish composer Carl Nielsen's powerfully concentrated Symphony No. 4 (The Inextinguishable). This will be coupled, amazingly, with the more expansive No. 5 on compact disc. For collectors who sometimes feel shortchanged by stingy timings, this will be a historic first—the longest CD yet manufactured!

Nielsen's Fourth does not possess the warmth and pastoral temperament of earlier works. It is highly impassioned music, with only lightning flashes of the

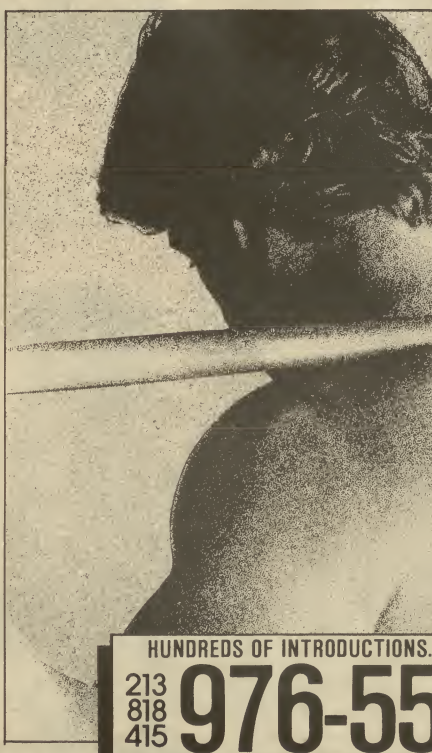
(Continued on page 36)

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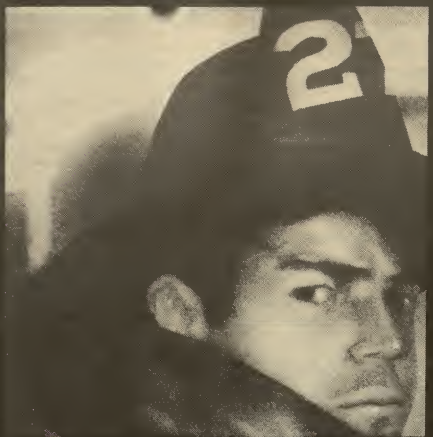
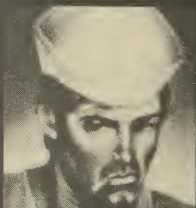
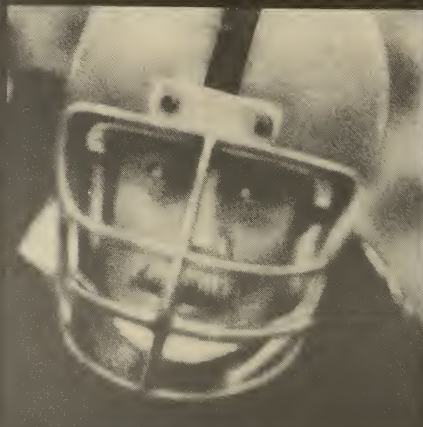
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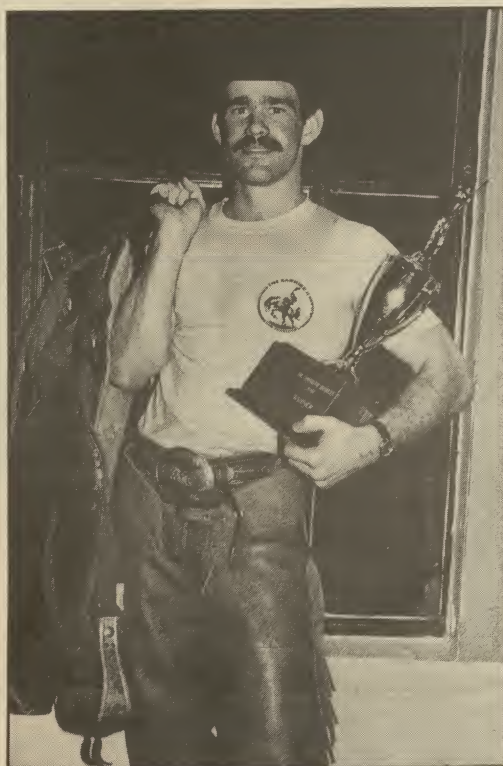
Mr. Marcus

Two More Stars For The Men of Folsom

James Buhler and Chad Seibold emerged as the two newest South-of-Market title holders last weekend when titles were given out at the Mr. South-of-Market contest Saturday, Nov. 7, and at the California Motor Club (CMC) Carnival Sunday, Nov. 8. James is Mr. Carnival XXII and Chad is Mr. South-of-Market II.

Both functions were woefully low in attendance and the input I've gotten from many, many men is that there was insufficient advertising for both events. You can't fill an auditorium or a hall without posters and advertisements. Full and/or half-page flyers just don't cut it. I've seen bar and disco owners standing on the corner of 18th and Castro passing out flyers relentlessly, but no such activities were evident for either the Mr. South-of-Market contest or the CMC Carnival. With the constant influx of new bodies/people into San Francisco, not everyone can be aware of the 22-year-old CMC Carnival and the fledgling Mr. South-of-Market title. There was sparse representation of able-bodied men in the contests, and a lot of those who signed up to participate didn't even bother to show up! In spite of all that, several hundreds of dollars were raised for the AIDS Emergency Fund (\$3,500 from Mr. SofM and something in the neighborhood of \$500 from the CMC).

The judges for the Mr. South-of-Market contest (with all due respect to their good taste and taking the time to participate) were mostly non-leather persons (Bob Golovich, publisher of the Sentinel, Cleve Jones, a political activist, and Danny Williams, the stand-up comedian entertainer of the year) and that rankled a lot of hard-core leathermen. While most of these functions are to raise money, ticket buyers were nonetheless miffed to pay \$8-10 to get into the Mr. SofM contest, pay for drinks, and then be subjected to drawn-out auctioning



Mr. South of Market Chad Seibold, sponsored by the Rawhide II, with a trophy from Jay Platt (Photo: R. Pruzan)

for more money. More than half the crowd left early, not even waiting to hear the results of the judging. The father-daughter duets and solos were magnificent, and the trapeze artist won grand applause in an all-too brief display of daring on the high wire.

The 240 Golden Gate Ave. SEIU Union Hall, site of the CMC Carnival, was quite a pleasant surprise. A great crowd of old-timers and lots of hot new faces were on hand, swapping stories about the CMC Carnival in the "old days at Seaman's

Hall" and the thousands of attendees from all over the Bay Area, L.A., N.Y., and even foreign countries.

The Mr. Carnival competition took on a Latin flavor with four strapping young Latino men and two non-Latins. In the end, James Buhler raised some \$360 for the AIDS Emergency Fund, with Don Tribur as the 1st runner-up and Jesus Orduna the 2nd runner-up.

At the Mr. SofM contest, Chad Seibold (Mr. Nov. on the Eagle's



Mr. CMC '86 Duke Armstrong (l.) looks on as Mr. CMC '87 James Buhler and the runners-up raise their trophies (Photo: R. Pruzan)



Thrasher, star of *Cigar Blues* on Palm Drive Video
(Photo: J. Fritscher)

'88 calendar) gave Mr. SofM this year a western flair (sponsored by Rawhide II) with former Leather Daddy Tom Rodgers snatching the 1st runner-up spot (by two points!) and Richard Mosher placing third. I never heard who was sponsoring who. Lots of good items were auctioned off and, as usual, the Trocadero Transfer staff rose to the occasion with their courtesy and knowledgeable bartending. Jimbo, the world-famous doorman at the Troc, was in heaven with all the leather on the premises. Ms. Leather of SF Shadow Morgan was there and helped present the Michael Merriott quilt to Cleve Jones of the Names project.

I was pleasantly surprised to hear the expertise of DJ David "Puddles" Dysart at the CMC Carnival. He had the staunchest leather dudes hopping on the floor, including Mike McNamee's newest squeeze! Sable Clown performed a nifty number and Danny Williams doffed his neckbrace to wow the crowd with current Supreme Court input and other hilarious anecdotal belly-

busters. Now that the public is aware of these two events, perhaps the producers will enhance their attendance with some far-flung advertising to make some stupendous money! It was fun, and I hope you were there. See it all on Electric City Cable TV, Channel, 35, Oakland, on Dec. 6 at 2200 hours.

★ ★ ★
The craziness continues, however. If you were in between paydays or didn't get the word last weekend, tonight, Thurs., Nov. 12, Dorothy Duster unveils her unisex cologne, "Le Piu." It's only \$2 and the owners of the Mint have already put in their bid (\$30) for the first bottle at the Village Bar at 1900 hours. The new scent proceeds will be going to Ruth Brinker's Project Open Hand. I wouldn't miss this one. When Dorothy gets hot, she's Hot Dorothy—see you there?

Tomorrow night, Fri., Nov. 13, the 5th level of Neiman-Marcus will host the Cocktails in Paris party from 1800 to 2030 to bene-

fit Open Hand and the Gay Men's Chorus (only \$25 a head). If you're in Los Angeles, you can attend the Universal Ball at the Mayflower Ballroom. That same night, here, a pagan/faery piercing ritual takes place from 1900-2400. Call Mark at 621-6294 for details. Jim Ward of the Gauntlet in L.A. will be at Mister S from Noon to 1700 and he'll be at Image Leathers on Sunday, Nov. 15. Call Robert at Mr. S (863-7764) or Russ at Image (621-7751) for appointments both days.

The Western Star Dancers are having "Club La Star" at the

Central YMCA, 2nd Floor, at 2000 hours Saturday evening (\$8 in advance/\$10 at the door. It's their 4th Annual novelty and variety show with 20 acts; needless to say the theme is French. Call Jason Fontaine at 421-1790 for details.

The J/O Buddies have a Locker Room Night athletic safe sex party at 890 Folsom (doors open 2100-2300) for a mere \$8 (BYOB in cans, please). Dirty uniforms, team camaraderie, and erotic athletic wear encouraged.

If you're in NY on the 14th, the Mr. Leather of NY contest is at Tracks Disco.

Sunday, it's the Pigs in Paradise party. They have plastered their posters all over town, and it sounds hot to trot at the Troc from 1600 to Midnight. The gay and lesbian police officers are throwing this one (\$10 advance/\$15 at the door) and available at Headlines, All American Boy, New York Man).

The Comstock Club is throwing a Monte Carlo Casino night Saturday too, from 1800 to Midnight, black tie optional. It's a benefit for the AIDS Food Bank at \$25 per or \$30 a couple.

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(Continued on next page)

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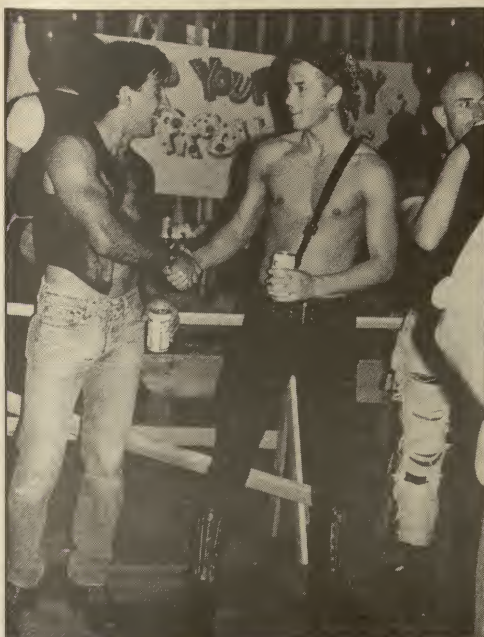
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New friends were made at the CMC Carnival
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

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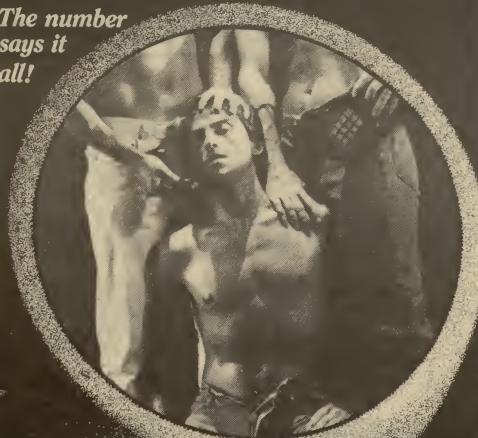
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Cleve Jones and Michael Chase hold up the leather-studded Names Project panel for the first Mr. South of Market, Michael Merriott
(Photo: R. Pruzan)

Marcus

(Continued from previous page)

Marin AIDS Support Network throws from 1500-1800 a fundraiser. Call 332-1801 for directions.

Coming up—SF Jacks Generic J/O party on Mon., Nov. 16; the SFGDI/Golden Gate Guards Club Night, Wed., Nov. 18, at the CW Saloon, and Friday, Nov. 20, the men vs. lesbians basketball game at Eureka Valley Gym (18th and Collingwood) for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Keepa you busy; Keepa you broke; Keepa you happy!

San Francisco's most renowned author, Jack Fritscher, is all aglow. His new book, *Stand By Your Man*, is a block-buster runaway best-seller and he just released the facts, ma'am, the facts about the most intensely erotic male erotic videos yet. The new one-man, one-hand eye-to-eye videos permeate the market via Palm Drive Video, a double-entendre name, not to be confused with LA's glitzy avenues and enclaves. Palm Drive drives you to madness. The stars of some 30 hot videos in an affordable price range are not the usual two-ways, three-ways, and orgies that always leave you out of the action. The players face you with intense eye action that somehow magically "personalizes" the interaction between the viewer and the man/men on the screen in your bedroom, den, or dungeon. Mr. Fritscher has a lot to strut about. One of the hottest released yet, *Cigar Blues*, sold some 143 copies within two weeks after its release. Fritscher chooses themes he knows appeals to M-E-N. It's no exaggeration that Palm Drive Videos produces and delivers you an electronic safe-sex partner that directly eyeballs you right in your bailiwick. Palm Drive Video's slogan for the most magnificent interpersonal video and good fantasy is "Masculine Videos for

Men Who Like Men Masculine"—one of the most aptly monikered products as an example of truth in advertising. You really should write Palm Drive Video, P.O. Box 3653, SF, CA 94119. For themes ignored by virtually all the big-name video producers, there's finally, at reasonable prices, Palm Drive Video. You only have to say you're 21 and while you're at it, check out Jason Steele in *Tit Animal*. Jack Fritscher indeed deserves recognition. It is incredible!

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A DISH . . .

Yes boys and girls, the casting couch bar owner is alive and ugly even in these enlightened days, and one of them is on Upper Market where one of his new stars was fired because he wouldn't—tsk tsk, how plebian!

We are now aboard United Air Lines Flt. 20 enroute to Washington, D.C. (last Friday) and as the craft reached cruising speed, the first man out to the tearoom was gay and when he walked into the tiny can and lifted the seat to relieve himself he cringed in horror! There, pasted on the inside lid was a photograph of Dick Ferris with the one-liner: "Dick Ferris Lives." (My informant swore on a stack of Drummer Magazines!) I don't know if this was a friend or enemy, but it does pose a lot of possibilities, doesn't it?! By the way, you can see the "living" Dick Ferris at Gold's Gym until this issue of B.A.R. hits Valencia Street!

The thing you should remember is to use common sense when taking care of your "toys" and accoutrements. One dude bought a pair of black latex gloves from Mercury Mail Order's new shop upstairs from the Village Bar and after a hefty action-packed weekend of fun with them, he decided to "clean" them in his dishwasher! Result: \$400 plumber's bill to untangle the black web from the machinery and an over-

draft on his VISA card. Poor baby!

And talk about the sweet smell of success! David Cockman, the T-shirt tycoon (Angles on Rausch St.), just opened his new shop in Marin which is a throb of sorts; he's also got a new throbber, er, heart throb, Jimmy Smithcart, and Mr. Cockman is just in hog heaven these days, that pig!

Hey! "CB," the manager of My Place (1225 Folsom and formerly the Ramrod), says the Beer Belly contest is Saturday, Nov. 21, beginning at 2200 hours. The winner gets \$100, second place gets \$75, and third place gets \$50. Suck 'em up guys! There's no belly like a beer belly, they say. The MC has not yet been named, so if you want to volunteer, call "CB" and pronto . . . burp!

If you attended the CMC Carnival you probably noted that there was no sexual corners hidden away anywhere, but just about closing time, a certain "Mohawk" was seen playing the Custer's Last Stand as he succumbed to the other cowboy bartender, and they were whooping it up with cameras flashing galore. Hi Sonny—how's Cher?

Men Behind Bars issues one more call for muscular men/bartenders to be "Follies Men" this coming Sunday, Nov. 15, at 1300 hours. Call Jim C. at 621-6476 if you have any other marketable talents for the February 1988 extravaganza. Do it now!

New gay bar in West Hollywood—it's called "Cheers" and opened Oct. 28. The former "1" Bar closed recently and will reopen with new owners, decor, and attitude, to be called the "Santa Fe"—how New Mexican!

Hey guys and girls, have fun this weekend, get your turkey(s) now!, and support the benefit functions. Stay out of the bushes, drop your dish lightly, keep your legs crossed, and see you all next week! Hi Gary Ross! How's the weather at "Big Horn" darling?!



Char celebrated the Kokpit's 4th anniversary

(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Showroom of the City



The lovely Betty Grable, as portrayed by Rocky

HI.M. Emperor 9 Bobby Pace presents a benefit on Sunday, Nov. 15 from 3 till 6 p.m. at Ginger's Too, featuring a raffle of 20 lottery tickets plus many other prizes as a benefit for Tessie's Holiday Dinners, so don't miss this important event.

We'll be seeing you, Shannon.

Seems as if Doug Lamb has finally done it. Moved and living with we all know who???

Remember to keep Nov. 29 open for a BIG party that will be coming up from 4 till 8 that day at Ginger's Too... more later.

You should start thinking about making your Thanksgiving reservations now. Of course you know that Ginger's Too will be closed that day (Ginger's at Eddy and Mason open 6 a.m. till 2 a.m.). But some of our finer houses open for Thanksgiving Day are: Lupann's, 552-6655; the Galleon, 431-0253; the Gate, 885-2852; Chez Mollet, 495-4527; and of course others.

Would like to welcome Sophie of the Inner Circle Bar of Chicago and we hope that you will be enjoying a lot of the Bombay Gin that we have for you. Incidentally you're lookin' great, Sophie.

John Tom says that Les Balm of the Galleon looks like Vera Carp. And that ain't no tennis pro. You looked great Empress Tina with the Galleon group on Halloween, and of course Jerry Colletti was his wonderful and generous self.

Don't forget that Wayne Friday's birthday is on Thanksgiving Day. You looked great the other evening Wayne.

Well, the Pennies from Heaven AIDS Emergency Fund is doing

very well what with the American Savings at Polk and California having two penny jars at their branch and of course the great cast of *Me and My Gal* at the Golden Gate Theatre. The backstage group have a jar and they have already turned in a sizable sum. For info contact Fred at 885-2852 Monday or Tuesday evenings.

Happy 73rd Birthday on Tuesday, Nov. 10, Bud Johnson.

Anyone wishing to make donations towards the Tessie Thanksgiving Dinners can do so by contacting either Leona or Bobby Pace at 775-3260 or Pushy Phylis at 621-2531. Remember this is something started by Empress Tessie and is being carried on in her memory for a most useful cause—feeding the elderly at holiday times. So please help.

On Saturday, Nov. 14 the Gate will be opening "The Gate," a restaurant with American cuisine of quality, quiet, unassuming elegance and downright reasonable prices. Dinners Monday through Saturday from 5 till 10:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. till 3 p.m., so do give them a try.

Well it seems as if Kimo's is going to become the Showroom of the city what with the one and only Bobby Callicotte opening there Nov. 13 through 15, with none other than the popular duo of Darcelle's XV of Portland, Oregon. Darcelle and Rock are doing the Sunday, Nov. 15, show with Bobby. Make your reservations early, don't forget mine, Jay Noonan. And of course the 16th is Darcelle's birthday but we can't find out the true age but maybe Mame will let us know.

Then on Dec. 2 through 4, Kimo's will be presenting the

fabulous Michael Greer with a special cocktail show on Sunday the 6th at 4 p.m. I know that it'll be a sellout so do get your reservations early. Looking forward to seeing you again, Michael, after your great performance at the Venetian Room at the Fairmont Hotel recently.

The Golden Gate Guards and the SFGDI Club invite you to Club Night on Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 8 till 11 at the C.W. Saloon, 917 Folsom St. featuring the 18 Wheeler, a chance to win lots of dollars.

How come Harry of Sutter's Mill called Don Rogers and of-

fered him a bus ticket to join him in Reno last weekend? Doesn't Harry know that Don doesn't ride buses, but is used to limo's. Nice to have seen Shannon and his better half the other evening.

This is to let you know that Ms. Minnie, aka Dick Gersbeck, is home with his Rome and doing quite well now that he is getting good home cooking. Hope to see you both soon and hi to Pat. Seems as if Dick Cook has been working overtime lately at the Stallion on Polk Street. He has been putting in the same shifts as Dolly Dale has at the Polk Gulch so that they know where each

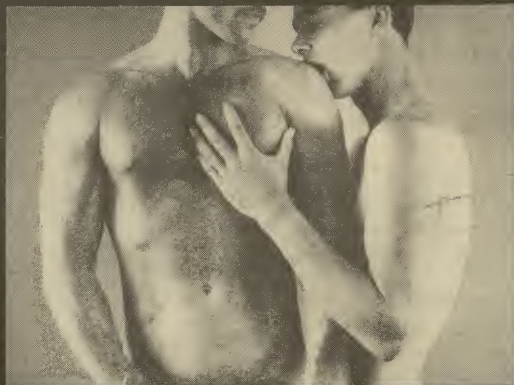
other is at all times. Isn't love or is it sex grand? Hi Jesse.

Well, is it true that Chris of Molly Brown's fame and the Wooden Horse is living in town now and looking for another bar? You heard it here first.

Incidentally, Ms. Lily Street, you looked absolutely marvelous the other evening. You seem to outdo yourself every time I see you. You weren't bad either, Ms. Tammy Lynn.

Thank you Trixie of Sutter's Mill for the fabulous entertainment on Sunday. As they say, you never looked lovelier. You should play piano more often.

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Karl's Calendar

Compiled by Diedre

THURSDAY 11/12

Parfum "Le Piu" Party, Village, 7 p.m., hostess Dorothy Duster, benefit Rita Rockett's Christmas Fund.

Jock Strap Contest, End Up, 10 p.m., hosted by Balloon Girls, \$3 cover.

Desiree Revue, N' Touch, Showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

Fund and AIDS Emergency Fund.

Cabaret, Galleon, 5 p.m., Bob and Marilee Marquette, 8 p.m. Scott Johnston.

Marlena and Darcel Birthday Party, Kimo's, fabulous show 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY 11/16

Watering Hole Anniversary Party, 8 p.m., buffet, drink specials.

Joey, Candidate Miss Cowgirl, Party, Kokpit, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 11/17

Watering Hole Anniversary Party Cont., 8 p.m., snacks, drink specials, pin night.

ICF Meeting, Chez Mollet, 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 11/18

Golden Gate Guards and SFGDI Club Night, C.W. Saloon, 8-11 p.m., showing of SFGDI 18 Wheeler Run Tape, ICF Fundraiser.

THURSDAY 11/19

Forum Meeting, S.F. Eagle patio, 8 p.m.

E.T.V.C. Social, Chez Mollet, 8 p.m.

Desiree Revue, N' Touch, showtimes 10:30 p.m. and 12:15 a.m.

SUNDAY 11/15

Free Wheelers Car Club Beer Bust, S.F. Eagle, 3-6 p.m., \$7.

Pigs In Paradise Tea Dance, Dreamland, 4 p.m.-midnight, \$10 advance, \$15 at the door, benefit GSPOA Education

Gay People Make a Gay Paper.

Campbell

(Continued from page 30)

composer's memorable melodies. One can hardly deny the dramatic impact, however, leading to the famous "duelling drums" of the exalted Allegro finale. Blomstedt has had prior recording experience with all six of Nielsen's remarkable symphonies, and his impressive command would seem to be growing even stronger.

While orchestral playing did slip occasionally with a few muffled entrances, the Maestro managed to marshal his forces through each inevitable step of the way, articulating incredibly dense textures and maintaining

a clear path to the triumphant conclusion. The Fourth is not loveable music, but it does portray admirably Nielsen's tough-minded vision of "the will of life." Herbert Blomstedt and the San Francisco Symphony would seem to have a real shot at international recording stature with their heroic performance.

Future weeks will bring Hindemith and Nielsen back to the fore when the former's Mathis der Maler Symphony (based on themes from the opera) and the latter's Symphony No. 5 get live performances roughly concurrent with taping sessions at Davies. It's a pleasure having Maestro Blomstedt back and listening as the Orchestra's recorded library grows.

Myrtle

(Continued from page 27)

have, that Williams took on too much in one play, and not very well. If it is an ambitious failure (and I am not saying it is), it is also a fascinating failure, if you think about it.

No matter what the faults of the play, the local production cannot be faulted for its pacing by director Maria Mazer, who has directed plays to high acclaim both here and in New York over the last five years. It also has an effective set design, in a more confined area than a Broadway stage, by Steve Coleman. The very realistic sound by Adam Liberman also is worthy of praise.

The play's three talented actors were excellent. They gave the play real life and are collectively the strongest reason (among other reasons) to see this play.

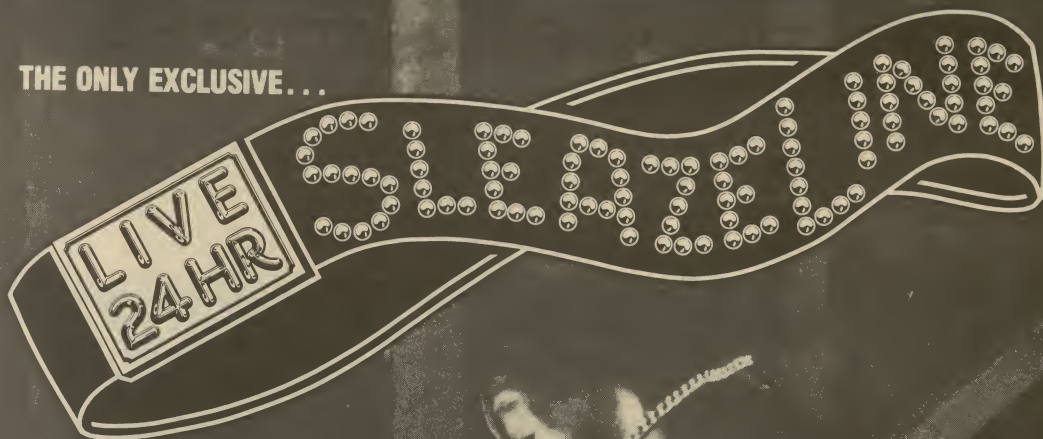
Timmy Spence, as Lot, was

completely into his suffering, effete character in voice, tone and accent and in body movements. Este Gardner, as Myrtle, always looked and sounded convincing, especially in changing from mothering her dying husband to playing along with his strong half-brother, a sure survivor, since she lacks self-sufficiency ("Is there anything you can do outside a bed?").

As for the portrayal of Chicken in this production, pardon the pun, but "A star is Dorn!" Ron Dorn, as Chicken, gives a natural, seemingly effortless performance that is more lived-in than performed. He is an embodiment of bitterness, cunning, crude machismo, menacing charm, male sexiness and brutishness, an instinctual survivor. His performance is fascinating.

There are only four more weekends left for *Myrtle*. And only about 75 seats at each performance. Get thee to the Church on time!

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Gay Teachers On FLAG Agenda

"Mom, Guess What? My Teacher's Gay" is the program at the November meeting of Federal Lesbians and Gays (FLAG). Members of the Bay Area Network of Gay/Lesbian Educators (BANGLE) will be guest speakers. The meeting will be held on Friday, Nov. 13

at 6 p.m., at Raffles (in the Fox Plaza building), 1390 Market St., near Polk. A no-host bar and free buffet will be available. A \$2 donation is requested. Bring a magazine for People with AIDS. Everyone is welcome, especially lesbian/gay public employees.

Call 695-9174 for more information.

AIDS Musical Benefit In San Mateo

Infants and AIDS, a project of ELLIPSE: Peninsula AIDS Services.

Performers include Tom Andersen, who starred for more than four years in *Beach Blanket Babylon*, John Lusk, a soloist in many local cabarets, Pamela Brooks, who has starred in the revues *Standing Room Only* and

Jeanette and Nelson. The \$25 per person tax-deductible donation will include the show, followed by a lavish dessert reception donated by Sweet Max's, and dancing to live music. General admission tickets may be purchased at The Book Store or the P.C.L.O. office, both in San Mateo, or by calling 579-5567.

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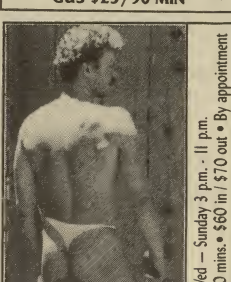
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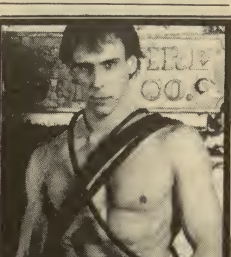
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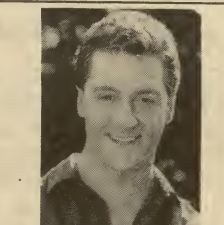
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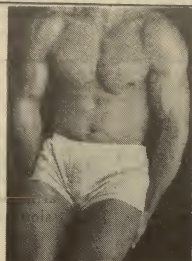
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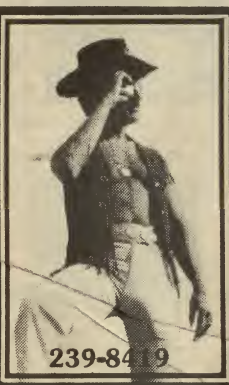
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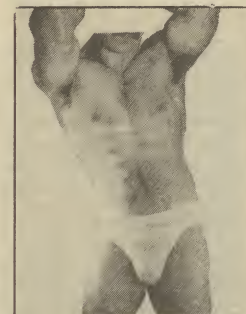
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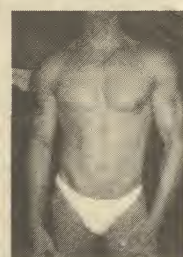
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BAY AREA REPORTER SPORTS & FITNESS

Jim Pasquali: Over 40 And Fit

by Rick Thoman

It's 1964, and 18-year-old Jim Pasquali has just out-learned the competition in the 120-yard low hurdles race to win the League Championship. His exceptional effort, combined with stellar performances in the high hurdles and 4x100 relay, help him achieve for the second year in a row the honor as outstanding athlete of the year at Huntington Beach High School. At this point in his young life, Jim Pasquali basks in the glory of being an all-star Southern California jock.

It's 1986, and 40-year-old Jim Pasquali is stepping back onto the track for the first time since his 1964 glory days. At Gay Games II Pasquali performs like he's never been away, racking up three silver and one gold medal. At this point in his life he finds his achievements much more satisfying and rewarding. At an age some people consider to be over the hill, Pasquali is once again committed to sports in an active manner.

"It wasn't easy coming back out after laying off for over 20 years," Pasquali said in a recent interview. "My biggest problem was trying to overcome my own mental inertia. Mentally I was afraid that I wouldn't be as good as the other guys on the team or as good as I used to be in high school. I thought I wouldn't be able to keep up with the others at practice."

Pasquali had moved to San Francisco from Southern California in June of '87. Too late to participate in the first Gay Games, Pasquali nonetheless attended as a spectator and vowed to be involved in the next Games. In 1984 he began a regimen of swimming to gradually get his aging body back into shape, and in 1985 discovered the San Francisco Track & Field Club.

"The Track Club made all the difference for me," Pasquali said. "I had been apprehensive about how I would measure up to the performances of the rest of team, but I found out that you only measure your own performance against yourself. Track is a very individualized sport; you run against yourself and try to better your previous marks. The team is there to help you get through it all. If it hadn't been for the team, I still would be at home trying to convince myself to get back on the track."

Pasquali said the San Francisco Track & Field Club's training philosophy allowed him to practice at his own pace, making his comeback more comfortable.

"It was encouraging to train with them because you get to see first-hand how much everyone else struggles to become the best that they can. It doesn't leave you with the feeling that you're the only one who's really having a hard time with a workout. It's not easy for anyone. However, with these guys, practice turned out to be a lot of fun and the good times we share helps to carry you through a tough workout."

"I think a lot of older men and women feel it's too late to come



Jim Pasquali

(Photo: S. Savage)

out and be competitive. That really isn't the case. One of the reasons that helped convince me to come back out was the Masters program many sports have. At Masters meets, you compete only against those individuals in your own age group, roughly a five-year age span. It's been inspirational to me to watch some of the 60-, 70-, and even 80-year-old competitors at these meets and the tremendous accomplishments they are achieving."

Pasquali feels everyone should look into participating in sports, no matter what their age.

"The gay community has really provided a great support network in athletics. There are many programs set up to help the first-time or returning athlete get into a good sports program. And the Gay Games provide an excellent goal to work towards," he said.

"Being 40, or whatever age, is no excuse for not coming out, Pasquali said. "My advice would be to phone any of the gay ath-

letic groups that interest you and find out about their program. Don't be intimidated by the team but use it as a support. I found that, on the track, everyone was interested in helping each other. Participation is the goal at whatever level you can achieve. The satisfaction comes from getting out there and trying."

Pasquali is pleased with the fringe benefits he has reaped from participation in sports.

"I'm much more aware of my body now and I tend to take better care of it than I used to," he said. "I'm more conscious of what I eat and how much I eat. I've been able to cut out a lot of unhealthy foods and learned the importance of carbohydrates and vegetables. And I've even been able to give up smoking, which I had been struggling with for years unsuccessfully."

Off-season Pasquali spends training time stretching, weight training, swimming, and occasionally running. During regular

track season he participates in three practice sessions at the track each week and increases his weight training and conditioning efforts. All of these things have left him feeling more energized, mentally more alert, and younger.

"Track is a throwback to my younger days and to still be able to be competitive at it really helps me feel that spark of youth I haven't found anywhere else," Pasquali said.

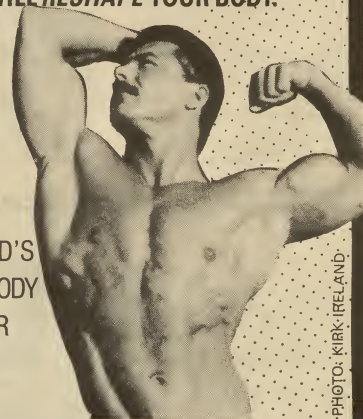
For 1988, Pasquali continues to train towards the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver and hopes to get back fulltime into the hurdles.

"I've flirted with the hurdles since coming back out for Gay Games II (where he was silver medalist in the 110 meter high hurdles). Now I think it's time to make a real commitment regarding the hurdles and see if I can't regain some of the proficiency I had in high school."

The road isn't going to be an easy one, but Pasquali relishes the challenge. He is quick to point out that "life is difficult. But that's no excuse not to participate in it, right? It's the same way with sports. And the rewards and self-satisfaction one can achieve make it all worthwhile."

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League Meeting Nov. 21 At Pilsner

by Tom Vindeed

For the first time in years, the Gay Softball League has a new look. From top to bottom, the GSL board is different and it is a strong board.

We will get to see just how good the board is on Saturday, Nov. 21 at 12 Noon when it holds its first meeting of the 1988 season at the Pilsner Inn, Church and Market Sts. The items on the agenda include players' fees and the right of the league commissioner to play on a team.

Subjects such as these should be discussed, but it is best when more league members start attending league meetings. Rumor has it that some people want no players fees and lower sponsor fees.

A financial disaster would be created if these things happened. Let the board make the recommendation and then deal with the issues.

See you at the league meeting.

Don't forget about winter softball! The games continue each Sunday at 10 a.m. at Christopher Field, Diamond Heights Blvd., next to Safeway.

Many people think that the GSL is just for playing softball. Well, they are wrong.

During the recently concluded season, the Rainbow Rods spent many hours helping AIDS and



The members of the Gay Softball League can be a lot of fun (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

ARC patients. At the GSL banquet, team founder Terry McCord was honored with the league's humanitarian award.

The AIDS Emergency Fund received a donation of \$1,000 from the GSL's hosting of the Gay World Series. And that's just one of the donations the league has sent out to different groups. The league also donated \$500 to Mark Warlick's Thanksgiving dinner for AIDS/ARC patients in the Green Room.

After former GSL commis-

sioner Rick Brattin announced the donation to Warlick, several league members added another \$250 to the kitty.

In the coming weeks, further donations will be made to several charitable organizations because of the success of the Gay Softball World Series. One of the reasons for this success is the generosity of the friends of the GSL. With-out people like Tony Trevizo, Deena Jones, Vinnie Russell, Jerry Coletti, Miller Beer, the Cable Car Awards and countless

others, there wouldn't be this windfall.

Thanks to everyone and keep it going!

In case you've been living under that proverbial rock, you should know that Francis Medeiros is the 1988 GSL commissioner. Francis defeated hard-working John Pavoni for the league's highest office. Obviously, either candidate would have been a good choice for the job.

Assisting Francis will be Jerry Pepper, whose credentials are unblemished. Jerry won without opposition. Good ol' boy Jack LeMasters also won without opposition and will continue to give us a strong person at the treasurer's helm.

Donna Jane Fonda is the newly-elected secretary. Donna edged Terry McCord, Pavoni and Troy Bronstein for the secretarial job.

Congratulations to the new board and the best of luck.

Three Body-Piercing Clinics In Mid-November

Jim Ward, of Gauntlet in Los Angeles, will be in San Francisco on Nov. 13-15 to do body piercing at a series of three clinics.

On Friday the 13th there will be a Pagan/Faerie Piercing Ritual in a private South-of-Market flat, that is open to men and women of any sexual persuasion and on any spiritual path. This group ritual explores body piercing as a rite of personal growth and healing. The ritual will be lead by Ganymede and Mark I. Chester and takes place from 7:30 p.m. until midnight. Call Mark at 621-6294 for more information.

On Nov. 14, Ward will be doing piercing from 12 Noon-5 p.m. at Mr. S. 227 7th St. Call Robert at 863-7764 for appointment. On Sunday, Nov. 15, Ward will be doing piercing from 12 Noon-5 p.m. at Image Leather, 2199 Market St. Call Russ at 621-7751 for appointment. Proper hygiene is strictly observed and privacy is assured for these two clinics.



Western Star Dancers Plan 'Club La Star'

There's more to the Western Star Dancers than a friendly dose-do. Their members are also variety show performers.

The Dancers will put on their production of "Club La Star" on Saturday, Nov. 14 at the Golden Gate YMCA, 220 Golden Gate Ave. (at the corner of Leavenworth). The variety show begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door.

According to Western Star member, Jason Fontaine, the variety show is not only a chance to entertain, but also an opportunity to raise funds for the club's treasury.

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Angel Island

Don't Forget Gay Sports Day

by Will Snyder

Sundays may be conducive to 49er-watching for many gay people, but there are a lot of other things to do, too. Jim Miller has a suggestion: come to Angel Island.

Miller is the spokesperson for the Gay Sports Day, which takes place this Sunday, Nov. 15 at Angel Island. Miller, a member of San Francisco FrontRunners, is excited about the possibilities for this sports/potluck dinner gathering. He expects close to 30 different gay and lesbian sports organizations from the Bay Area for the event, which, hopefully, will be blessed with sunshine.

"A lot depends on the weather, of course," said Miller, but we're hopeful that the crowds will be big."

Miller says the best thing about Gay Sports Day is that it helps boost membership in different organizations. "I think a lot of people are always interested in joining a running group or a

bicycle group, but some of them tend to be a little timid," he said. "Here, they get a chance to see the people involved with these groups. They can break bread with them. And, if they wish, they can find a new outlet for themselves."

All kinds of activities are planned. Wrestling matches, volleyball and softball games, a Fun Run and a bicycle trip by Different Spokes are among the fun things for participants. When you throw in a potluck lunch, too, that adds up to a nice day away from the city.

Other than the cost of putting together a dish to pass (entree, salad or dessert), the only money you'll have to plunk down is either \$7.10 for a round trip ticket for San Franciscans or \$4 from Tiburon.

The fun takes place from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. For more info, call either Miller at 922-1435 or Wendy Cosin at 626-1478.

Bowling Can Provide Food For Thought

by Richard McPherson

At the writing of this column SFNTIT (pronounced Sniff 'n' Tit) is only hours away, although by publishing day it will be history. I thought I would sit here at the Patio Cafe compiling and bringing the recent personal achievements up-to-date.

I'm sitting here at a corner table, which seems to have been abandoned by waiters long ago. When my breakfast finally arrived, the waiter asked me: "Is there anything else I could get you?" I was tempted to reply: "Yes, a paramedic."

As I write, the athletes are, no doubt, loading up on carbohydrates in preparation for hitting the lanes at Castle.

That aside, there are a lot of scores to report, so let's get started.

Don Gambell is topic number one again. Even after his string of 600 series a month ago, he continues to be on an upward spiral. On Monday, Oct. 19, at Park Bowl, he put together a long string of strikes for a 255 game. He topped that the following Monday with a 278 game. That's 11 strikes out of 12 frames, a near 300 game. Only a spare in the fourth frame kept him from his attempt at perfection.

"In the tenth frame my hands were shaking," he said, "and all I could think about was dropping the ball on my foot, like Michael Wheeler." (Wheeler's been off the lanes for a few weeks after his incident with the big black ball.) As happy as he is with these achievements, he notes that his scoring is still inconsistent. "When I shot my 255 game my first game was a 130, and when I shot the 278," he said, "I only had a 622 series."

Don is still ironing out the kinks in his game, but regardless of his personal feelings, he's doing a lot right.

Glen Terrio (167 avg.) and Chuck Webster (152) were two of the biggest scorers on Thursday, Oct. 29, Glen shooting a 251 game and Chuck a 241. Kelly Roberts (149 avg.) came close to the "100 pins over average" mark with a 241 game.

Keith Ray has been hot for two weeks, shooting 224, 232, 192 for a 648 one week and 224, 236 for a 643 on the following week (Oct. 28). His 224, 232 back-to-back games encompassed 12 strikes in a row; finishing the first with five in a row and beginning the second with a seven-bagger.



Camaraderie abounded on the lanes during the SF No Tap Invitational Tournament last weekend (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Here are the 600 series at Park Bowl: Greg Hulliger (163 avg.) 246, 232/648; Randy Peterson (187) 212, 221/622; Jeff Hettmansperger (192) 218, 211/622; Doug Litwin (178) 202, 213/616; Jim Hahn (196) 221/612; Michael Bulhvit (173) 202, 234/610; Ray Padua (161) 222, 200/606 and Roy Thorson (193) 213, 201/602.

TGL 215+ games: Tom Byers, (179 avg.) 232; Tom Neidert (167) 228; Dave Lily (186) 228; Arne Prince (182) 227; Randy Peterson (188) 226; Tim Mulvenon (179) 226; Ray Padua (152) 226; Peter Bassford (155) 226; Jeff Hettmansperger (187) 225; Glenn Judd (181) 224; John Perry (173) 224; Tyrone Timms (156) 223; Richard McPherson (189) 223; Tim Mulvenon (182) 223; Lou Stephenson (151) 222; John Parry (178) 221; Arne Prince (180) 221; Russ Beck (170) 221; Dave Lily (189) 220; Randy Peterson (165) 218; Don Gambell (169) 218; Max Cane (133) 218; Richard McPherson (194) 217; Randy Peterson (192) 215; J.C. Halstead (186) 215 and Richard Bee (159) 215.

Many bowlers shot two 200s out of their three game set. They were: Tom Sipple (187 avg.) 213, 212; Dick Cavanee (177) 213, 205; Dick Cavanee (177) 207, 201; Angelo Maggio (176) 211, 211; David Arnold (207) 200, 201; David Birch (168) 201, 210; Joe Sanders (152) 202, 206; John Parry (177) 207, 200; Buddy Hunt (182) 204, 201 and Roy Thorson (195) 205, 202.

Honorable mentions (160 avg.

and under): Michael Gold (154 avg.) 214; Jeff Hines (147) 209; Brett Buckius (152) 212; Randy Poupard (144) 208; Derek Ow (152) 200; Vince DiColla (157) 200; David Sarathain (145) 210; Robyn Trost (171) 204.

Congratulations to Mark Depke (132 avg.) on his long awaited first 200 game on Oct. 21, a 208. Willie Jamison (141) had high game for the women with a 222, taking over high handicap

game in the Mon. TGL with a 269. Timothy Gunter (136) had 193 and 184 games back to back. Good work.

By the way, Allen, loved your drag on the lanes during Halloween week: Blue moo-moo, sandy locks for days and brown moustache offset by a pair of bowling shoes. Hey, it worked!

At Japantown Bowl, the week of Oct. 23 to Nov. 2, David Arnold, still running on hot, had high game with a 227 followed

the next week by a 215. On Oct. 29 Dave Williams (170 avg.) had a 210 and 226. Other games over 210: Hunter Bauman (170) 219; Dan Burley (175) 214; J. Badilla-Dawal (169) 213 and Art White (161) 211.

The 200 games shot by 160 avg. and under: Pay Padua (152 avg.) 210; Blaine Whitlock (150) 205; Bill Niemczyk (156) 204; Duane Pryor (149) 203; Bob Luha (145) 202; Grady Clark (156) 201; Rick Aguilar (148) 200 and Don Padgett (141) 200.

Worth a special mention: Glenn Baker shot a 221 game, way over his 137 average.

Debbie Carmona still fresh from her 729 series a few weeks ago fired a 643 series on games of 189, 207, 247 in the SF Women's Business League at Park Bowl. This series carries her 15-game average over the 200 mark to a 202. Patti Oates (189 avg.) had the other 600 series on Nov. 1, with 190, 216, 212, for a 618.

SFWBL 200 games: Velda Gooden (198 avg.) 217; Gayl Chun (170) 214; Robyn Trost (162) 214; Sharon Dom (159) 210; Kerry Robishaw (163) 200; Fran McDaniel (150) 200.

Apologies to anyone who's scoring achievement I might have missed, I had a lot of recap sheets to scan. Please let me know anytime I miss something or someone worth mentioning.

By the way, the food is great, all is forgiven.

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Two Gay Artists In New Show

San Francisco gay artists, Rex and Mark I. Chester will be included in the San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery show, *Chain Reaction III*, opening at 155 Grove St., across from City Hall. The show will be held on Thursday, Nov. 19. A reception which is open to the public will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Both Rex and Chester, known for their intense personal explorations of obsessed out on the edge sexuality and eroticism promise to add spice to this group show of some 48 artists.

Rex, acclaimed for his poin-

tillistic drawings of a male world that exists in the realm of erotic turn-on, creates from a mythology of men, machines, animals and sex. The common objects within that world become highly energized sexual icons, dripping with the smell and lust of sexual obsession.

Chester, acclaimed for his black and white photographs that are as much a diary of personal growth as they are a documentary record of the 1980's in San Francisco, creates an unforgettable world of bizarre sexual eroticism peopled, not by paid models, but by the boy and girl next door. ●

Tsunamis Return to Spawning Grounds

by Hal Herkenhoff

Returning to the birthplace of the gay swimming world, the Tsunami Masters Gay/Lesbian Swim Club marked a sentimental homecoming to the San Francisco State Swim Pool last Sunday. In 1982, the same pool was the site of the first gay/lesbian swimming and diving competition ever, Gay Games I. Since then, the local gay/lesbian swimmers have been participating and competing for their regular, non-gay teams until Gay Games II came around. During that time, this new, expanded group of swimmers created their own team and swept into Gay Games II, winning 175 medals, far ahead of other strong teams from West Hollywood, San Diego, and Seattle.

Now this group is called the S.F. Tsunami Masters and boasts 60 members to go with last summer's 4th-place team finish at Northern California's Masters Long Course (50 meter pool) Championships in Palo Alto. Now, after the birth of gay/lesbian swimming on Aug. 10, 1982, and the years of disorganization, many of the same swimmers came to the annual Masters meet that has been hosted by S.F. State for years and brought to it the first openly gay/lesbian swim team ever, back into its own spawning ground.

Quite unlike the formative days for hesitant gay/lesbian swimmers in pre-1982, this time the scene was alive with loud cheering and confident support

for all of the Tsunamis, a tight-knit club that practices, competes, raises funds, and parties together to the fullest.

The Tsunami contingent of 30 swimmers was part of the 150-200 largely non-gay participants of all ages from all over Northern California. Backed by their noticeable group support and their experienced coaching from Maria Pease, the Tsunamis were very successful at the competition level as well.

As usual, Jim Johnson was unstoppable, winning all five of his events in tough age-bracket competition for 30-34 years. Johnson barely missed a personal best in the 50 freestyle (22.61) and tallied good times for himself in the 100 free (49.64), 50 back (26.6), 50 butterfly (24.48), and 100 fly (54.77). Only Craig Mallory was able to keep up with that pace, equally devastating to the competition in his age bracket of 25-29 years. Mallory, a recent transplant from Boston, was outstanding, winning the 50 free (22.19), 100 free (47.67), and 200 free (1:49.92). If you don't know if these are good times, let it be known that both of these gay swimmers are the current Northern California Masters record-holders in several events, some of which were made at Gay Games II.

But at this low-key level of local competition, the main emphasis is usually on each one's own personal bests since this is the early segment of the short-course (25-

yard pool) season. Most of the athletes are merely trying to equal or better some of their best times with their eye on the meets in March and April that will lead into the Masters championships in the spring. Also, next March is the International Gay/Lesbian Championships in San Diego for the second year in a row.

Joe Denny has been battling the 30-second barrier in the 50 free for more than a year and was finally able to crack that barrier this time out. Nice work! Mary Huber, newly elected to the Tsunami board, also recorded a personal best in the 50 free, along with Claire Novak in the 50 backstroke, and Keith Sklower in the 100 breaststroke.

Despite the absence of half a dozen of the stronger swimmers, the Tsunamis dominated the reply competitions and scored very well as a team, though the meet does not record team statistics.

All Tsunami team practices are at King Pool, 3rd Street and Carroll, on Sundays from 10 a.m. until noon. Call 285-5659 for information.

The Annual Team Membership Meeting will be Saturday, Nov. 14, at 12:30 p.m. at Empire Savings office, 444 Castro St., S.F. The board will meet with all team members and discuss committee assignments, yearly plans, and general issues for the coming year.

Congratulations to Tsunamis

Mark Lipinski and Rick Windes for their recent election to the Team San Francisco Steering

Committee to lead San Francisco athletes to Vancouver in 1990 for Gay Games III.

BOWLING

JAPANTOWN BOWL COMMUNITY LEAGUES BOWLING

Team Standings

HAWAII VACATION LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|----------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Haleakala Hookers | 19½ | 12½ |
| 2. Hard Times | 19 | 13 |
| 3. Urasis Dragon | 18 | 14 |
| 4. Bowl 'R Brains | 18 | 14 |
| 5. Moby Dick Wallers | 17 | 11 |
| 6. Easy Leis | 17 | 11 |
| 7. Ball Busters | 14½ | 17½ |
| 8. Lois'T Lane | 14½ | 17½ |
| 9. Bulldogettes | 14 | 14 |
| 10. Earth Mothers | 13 | 19 |
| 11. Double Trouble | 13 | 15 |
| 12. Eruptions | 12½ | 15½ |
| 13. Tropical Teezers | 12 | 16 |
| 14. Hi Bound | 10 | 22 |

WEDNESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|-------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Parakeet Lounge | 12 | 0 |
| 2. AEF Maulers | 10 | 2 |
| 3. 14 Karat Jewels | 9 | 3 |
| 4. Pilner Tux 'N' Tails | 9 | 3 |
| 5. E Z Pick Up | 8 | 4 |
| 6. Problem Children | 7 | 5 |
| 7. More Hits 'n Misses | 7 | 5 |
| 8. Lois Laners | 5 | 7 |
| 9. Kingpin Honies | 4 | 8 |
| 10. Balls In Hand | 3 | 9 |
| 11. S.F. Band & Tea | 2 | 10 |
| 12. Team #13 | 2 | 10 |
| 13. Helen Beds | 1 | 11 |
| 14. Team #14 | 1 | 7 |

TUESDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|---------------------|----|----|
| 1. Bobby Pins | 16 | 4 |
| 2. Tender Vittles | 13 | 7 |
| 3. Radcliffs Rebels | 11 | 9 |
| 4. Swaying Palms | 11 | 9 |
| 5. Firecrackers | 11 | 9 |
| 6. Giraffe | 10 | 10 |
| 7. Still Hoping | 9 | 11 |
| 8. A.I.M. Sluts | 9 | 11 |
| 9. Pinups | 9 | 11 |
| 10. Twin Peaks | 7 | 13 |
| 11. Striketees | 7 | 13 |
| 12. Team #1 | 7 | 13 |

THURSDAY COMMUNITY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|--------------------|----|----|
| 1. The Oddballs | 11 | 1 |
| 2. Pilner Penguins | 10 | 2 |
| 3. Team #10 | 8 | 4 |
| 4. Liquor Express | 8 | 4 |
| 5. Hot 'N' Hunky | 7 | 5 |
| 6. Stallion | 6 | 6 |
| 7. Yacht Club | 4 | 8 |
| 8. Old Ricks | 4 | 8 |
| 9. Pendulum #1 | 4 | 8 |
| 10. Castro-ettes | 2 | 10 |
| 11. Team #12 | 2 | 6 |
| 12. Team #11 | 1 | 7 |

PARK BOWL TAVERN GUILD BOWLING LEAGUES

Team Standings

S.F. WOMEN'S BUSINESS LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. Mona Tong Realty | 23 | 1 |
| 2. Park Bowl | 22 | 2 |
| 3. Expr. Computer Sup. | 16 | 8 |
| 4. Mauds Squad | 16 | 8 |
| 5. Geraldines Caterers | 14 | 10 |
| 6. Bowldykes | 13 | 11 |
| 7. Better Natural | 13 | 11 |
| 8. Amelias | 11½ | 12½ |
| 9. Cassidys Cabinettes | 11 | 13 |
| 10. Friskes Kritters | 10½ | 13½ |
| 11. Artemis | 10 | 14 |
| 12. Awards by Chris | 10 | 14 |
| 13. Sidneys Pinheads | 10 | 14 |
| 14. Bernice Straub | 10 | 14 |
| 15. Faenza/White Cpts | 9 | 15 |
| 16. About Paper Plus | 5 | 19 |
| 17. Francois Coffee Hse. | 4 | 20 |
| 18. Brite Shine Janit | 4 | 20 |

TAVERN GUILD TRIOS

| | W | L |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. S.F. Eagle | 17½ | 2½ |
| 2. Main Course | 16 | 4 |
| 3. Best of Breed | 15 | 5 |
| 4. Bow-K | 14 | 6 |
| 5. Pilner Pin Pals | 13½ | 6½ |
| 6. Bill's Quackers | 13 | 7 |
| 7. O My Mi | 13 | 5 |
| 8. Clayton Cavaliers | 13 | 7 |
| 9. Cafe San Marcos | 11½ | 8½ |
| 10. Pet Shop | 11 | 9 |
| 11. Pilner Penguins | 10 | 10 |
| 12. Strike Force | 10 | 10 |
| 13. Spare Parts | 10 | 10 |
| 14. And I do windows | 9½ | 10½ |
| 15. Galaxy | 9 | 11 |
| 16. Bloomin' Flowers | 7½ | 12½ |
| 17. Humm Babies | 7 | 13 |
| 18. Pilner Pin-Ups | 5 | 15 |
| 19. Capricorn Coffee | 4½ | 15½ |
| 20. Park Bowl | 4 | 16 |
| 21. Underpinnings | 3 | 17 |
| 22. Alcatraz Fed. BBS | 3 | 17 |

TAVERN GUILD MONDAY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|-----------------------|-----|----|
| 1. Stayin Alive | 16 | 4 |
| 2. Park Bowl | 15½ | 4½ |
| 3. Pilner Pinnguins | 14½ | 5½ |
| 4. Trax Stars | 14 | 6 |
| 5. Frantic Finishers | 13 | 7 |
| 6. Is It Over Yet | 13 | 7 |
| 7. Rolo's | 12½ | 7½ |
| 8. Twisted Pins | 11 | 9 |
| 9. Lambda Capital | 11 | 9 |
| 10. Pilner Powerpuffs | 10½ | 9½ |
| 11. Kokpit Pacers | 10 | 10 |
| 12. Rawhide II | 10 | 10 |

| | | |
|------------------------|----|----|
| 13. Pet Stop Cocktails | 10 | 10 |
| 14. Play With It LTD | 9 | 11 |
| 15. Welcome Home | 8 | 12 |
| 16. Pendulum | 8 | 12 |
| 17. Jack Trux | 7 | 13 |
| 18. C.C. Cotillion | 7 | 13 |
| 19. Rawhide II Too! | 6 | 14 |
| 20. Castro Station | 6 | 14 |
| 21. Pendulum II | 5 | 15 |
| 22. Bar Breakers | 3 | 17 |

TAVERN GUILD WEDNESDAY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|----------------------------|----|----|
| 1. Pendulum Pieces | 18 | 2 |
| 2. New Pilner Quackers | 17 | 3 |
| 3. Leftovers | 16 | 4 |
| 4. Pilner Penguins | 14 | 6 |
| 5. Pendulum Pandas | 14 | 6 |
| 6. Park Bowl | 13 | 7 |
| 7. Bow-K | 13 | 7 |
| 8. All Amer. Bowlers | 13 | 7 |
| 9. Pilnerds | 13 | 7 |
| 10. Pilner I | 12 | 8 |
| 11. 9 Eyes Only | 10 | 10 |
| 12. Play with it, LTD | 9 | 7 |
| 13. Rams Head Bar | 8 | 12 |
| 14. Rams and Ewe | 8 | 12 |
| 15. Team #6 | 6 | 14 |
| 16. Pilner Pntless Sisters | 5 | 15 |
| 17. Schmidt & Schmidt | 5 | 15 |
| 18. S.F. Eagle | 5 | 15 |
| 19. Pilner Opus I | 5 | 15 |
| 20. Gutter Girls | 5 | 15 |
| 21. D. K.'s Ummtnbles | 4 | 12 |
| 22. Bedrockers | 3 | 17 |

TAVERN GUILD THURSDAY LEAGUE

| | W | L |
|---------------------|----|----|
| 1. Still Just Trax | 13 | 3 |
| 2. Pilner 4 Play | 12 | 4 |
| 3. Belden 22 | 12 | 4 |
| 4. American Pie | 11 | 5 |
| 5. Play With It Ltd | 11 | 1 |
| 6. Strike Force | 9 | 7 |
| 7. Confused Ones | 9 | 7 |
| 8. Cafe San Marcos | 8 | 8 |
| 9. Styles & Stamins | 8 | 8 |
| 10. Team #8 | 8 | 8 |
| 11. Trixie's Tricks | 8 | 8 |
| 12. R A C Rodies | 8 | 8 |
| 13. Paradise Lounge | 7 | 9 |
| 14. Honeymooners | 7 | 9 |
| 15. S.F. Eagle | 7 | 5 |
| 16. Trax Trash | 6 | 10 |
| 17. Wild Balls | 6 | 10 |
| 18. Park Bowl | 5 | 11 |
| 19. Superstar Video | 4 | 12 |
| 20. Bowl Me Over | 3 | 13 |



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BOOKS

Fierstein Imitates 'Torch Song Trilogy'

Safe Sex
by Harvey Fierstein
Atheneum Press, \$15.95

by Joseph W. Bean

If one trilogy of plays is good, the next must be better, right? Wrong! Harvey Fierstein's *Safe Sex* is not better than his earlier and very well written *Torch Song Trilogy*. Instead it is a pale imitation, limping where *Torch Song* ran and completely falling apart where *Torch Song* grew thin.

The premise of these plays completely evaded me both when I read them for myself and when two playwright friends did a dra-

matic reading of the entire book for me. The first play, called *Manny and Jake* is an encounter on a see-saw. Two men who were once lovers have decided to give it another try, but there seems to be no excuse for the effort. The second play, *Safe Sex*, is less interesting. Here Mead and Ghee ramble on clumsily about how scared they are in this Age of AIDS. Fierstein almost makes a point in this play about the crippling effects of fear, but it doesn't come off. Instead we end up with two characters who are about as ill-matched as a couple can be, except that their psychoses are complementary, who will stay together more from fear than

love. Please, Harvey.

In the final play, *On Tidy Endings*, Fierstein actually does give us characters with lives and stories, but he doesn't do it dramatically. He just has people announce everything we could need to know about them, which makes dry reading and flat, flat theatre. In this play, an ex-husband has died of AIDS and we listen in on the completely unconvincing wrangles and cuddlings of the man's former wife and his last lover. These people are about as real as paper dolls and a lot less pretty.

All in all, the only reason for reading *Safe Sex* would be to see

how low a good writer can go in trying to scoop extra cash out of the Broadway trough once he has "earned" access to it. And, you have to wonder, is that any reason for reading a book?

Safe Sex is, overall, about living with AIDS, if it's about anything. On the other hand its information sounds alternately old-hat and outmoded. So, this is a book only for serious Broadway script collectors, or for hard-core masochists who want to make themselves flinch with the twinges that come from reading impossibly insipid dialogue. ●

Radclyffe Hall The Inspiration For 3 Readings

Radclyffe Hall, the lesbian author of *The Well of Loneliness*, is the inspiration for a series of staged readings by the New Theatre Company (NTC). The group will read *Radclyffe's Well* on three consecutive nights beginning on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

On the 18th, the NTC will perform its reading at the Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller Ave. On Nov. 19, the reading will be held at the Julia Morgan Theatre in Berkeley. The Friday, Nov. 20 reading will be at Fort Mason, Building C. All readings begin at 7:30 p.m. ●

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